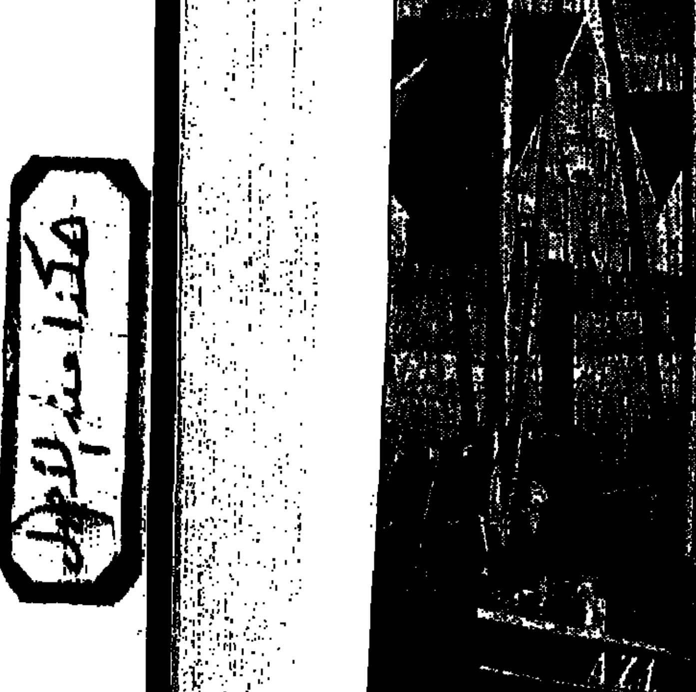


The German Tribune

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...urg, 16 October 1983
...-second year - No. 1104 - By air

German-American jubilee not just window-dressing

...any speeches made in Washington to mark the tricentennial of ...an immigration have stressed the ...t and durable nature of German-...ican ties.

...uch numbers they are unlikely to ...rd again for some time, but when ...he 52 million Americans of Ger... extraction think about the old ...y it is a sentiment they are likely ...o.

...was made repeatedly by Bonn Pre... Karl Carstens and by his Ameri... hosts from President Reagan to ...ary of State Shultz.

German-American relations, they said, have not only stood the test of two world wars. More recently they have endured disputes over agricultural exports and economic strategy toward the East.

This is not to mention the countless bids to decouple by those who feel such close ties based on free and democratic fundamental values are a thorn in the flesh.

It would be wrong to dismiss as mere window-dressing ceremonies culminating in a German-American national day.

They have included German appearances on Capitol Hill, the opening of a friendship garden near the White House, an industrial fair, an exhibition of Expressionists in Philadelphia and the signing of documents marking the start of a large-scale youth exchange scheme.

There can be no doubt that this review all over America of similarities between and identity of interests of our two peoples has created a climate of mutual goodwill no other event could have.

The West's hand can only have been strengthened by this demonstration taking place on the eve of the crucial round of Start talks and medium-range missile talks in Geneva.

President Carstens, who repeatedly dealt with the criticism levelled by advocates of unilateral disarmament and doubters in respect of the dual-track Nato decision, convincingly claimed to speak for the majority of West Germans.

It was a majority for which Nato was a lasting alliance commitment.

This was a most important point to

Continued on page 3

...alesa's prize ...ct of courage

...year the Nobel Prize committee ...ll felt unable to agree on Lech ... for the peace prize. Making the ...d to the Danzig workers' leader in ...ial-law Poland would have meant ...ig a risk.

...and is still not at peace, but the ... of Walesa is no longer like rous... hornets' nest. It is still a politically ...geous decision.

...cow and its allies will see the ...as an act of psychological warfare ...capitalist world.

...n in the West some people may ...een taken by surprise. Walesa did ...store peace and quiet; he symbo... unrest and conflict.

...few deserve the Nobel Prize as ...as Walesa.

...der him, Poland went through a ...iolent struggle for freedom for a ...nd a half, a bloodless social and ...al revolution.

...and the Polish people may not ...won, but they haven't been beaten ... They have shown that Commu... dictatorships are not all-powerful.

...e Danzig shipyard electrician re...ded the world that peace and free... belong together. Some are too ...y to talk about resistance; Walesa's ...ple could help set them right.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 October 1983)

IN THIS ISSUE



Carstens in Washington. Bonn President Karl Carstens (left) in the United States for tricentennial celebrations, meets President Reagan at the White House.
(Photo: dpa)

Kohl tells Arabs: we want to help Middle East talks

Bonn is willing to help the Arab states to get down to negotiations on the Middle East, says Chancellor Kohl.

"We are not a party to the Middle East conflict," the Chancellor said in Cairo at a dinner with President Mubarak of Egypt.

But the security of Europe could not be viewed separately from that of the Middle East, he said.

"We cannot offer the parties, let alone impose on them, prearranged solutions, but we can and want to make it easier for them to get round the conference table."

Kohl in Cairo. Chancellor Kohl (left) and Egypt's President Mubarak at a press conference following talks.
(Photo: dpa)



Arab solidarity could make it easier to enter into negotiations.

Herr Kohl arrived in Cairo from Amman for a three-day visit. He spent his first afternoon with President Mubarak.

He planned to reaffirm in his talks with the Egyptian leader the Bonn view that the Lebanese cease-fire must be followed by intensive efforts to arrive at a *national reconciliation of all Lebanese.*

All foreign troops not approved by the Lebanese government ought to be withdrawn.

Unless there were a settlement of the Lebanon problem the overall problem of the Middle East conflict, and above all the Palestinian question, could not be solved.

In his after-dinner address the Chancellor expressed "deep anxiety lest the peace process stagnate and constant obstacles to peace pile up."

In this context he mentioned Israeli settlement policy but also, as he put it, "the refusal to unequivocally recognise Israel."

In Bonn's policy on the Middle East there could be no either-or in relations with states in the region.

Germany's traditional friendship with the entire Arab world did not clash with cordial relations with Israel, he said.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 8 October 1983)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Wide variety of issues on agenda for Kohl visit to Saudi Arabia

Bonn has still not made a decision on the controversial issue of whether to sell the Leopard Mk II tank to Saudi Arabia.

Chancellor Kohl did not want to commit himself during his visit to Saudi Arabia. His restraint is understandable.

The Saudi Arabians have detailed ideas on their country's security and the military means they need to defend it.

But no Bonn government can afford to readily accept the Saudi viewpoint.

As a matter of principle Bonn exercises restraint in arms exports to countries that are not members of Nato. Does an exception make sense and can it be justified on major foreign policy grounds?

Saudi Arabia is of major importance to the West, but Israel is more than a mere bystander in this context, and Herr Kohl has yet to visit the Holy Land.

Bonn's ties with Riyadh are much closer than those with most Third World countries. They are relations of a special kind.

‘Overnight the Saudis became a vortex of Western security interests ...’

In the 1970s Saudi Arabia made a meteoric rise from an insignificant desert state to an oil giant. It commands great political importance in the Arab world.

Financially it has long emerged as a world power. It has much higher foreign exchange reserves than any other country even though its balance of payments is in the red in the wake of declining oil exports.

But it is still Germany's largest trading partner outside the West and was for many years its foremost oil supplier until it was overtaken by Britain and Libya.

Bonn appreciates Saudi Arabia's moderate attitude among the Opec states.

Not even the Saudis were able to prevent the devastating second round of oil price increases in the late 1970s, but they succeeded time and again in calling a halt to the price spiral favoured by extremist oil producers.

They also top the list for ploughing petrodollars back into the Western economic cycle, having largely reinvested in the industrialised West their astronomical oil revenues.

Riyadh is even Bonn's leading foreign creditor. Between 1980 and 1982 it lent the Federal Republic of Germany a total of DM23bn.

In proportion as Bonn gained in international political standing during the 1970s the German government grew increasingly keen to step up ties with leading Third World countries over and above partnership within the West.

Saudi Arabia soon came to hold pride of place among these endeavours. Bonn and Riyadh are both interested in gaining leeway outside the superpowers' spheres of influence.

The Saudi were also anxious not to limit their cordial ties with the West to a onesided emphasis on relations with the United States.

Such a onesided approach would be sure to weaken their reputation and influence in the Arab world.

Saudi Arabia feels itself to be part of the free world, as is in keeping with the education and outlook on life of its elite.

But it is strongly opposed to equating the free world with the West. As a nonaligned state anxious to maintain its independence from the superpowers in particular, the country needs to diversify its cordial ties with the West.

The Federal Republic of Germany, as an economic great power, naturally enjoyed priority. Three factors accounted for the importance of the resulting partnership between Bonn and Riyadh:

First, Saudi Arabia has exercised a moderating influence on its Arab neighbours in the Middle East conflict, especially on the extremists.

Second, Saudi Arabia sought close ties with the West during the Iran crisis in 1979 when, after the ousting of the Shah, it looked temporarily as though Islamic fundamentalism under Khomeini might spread like a bush fire throughout the Gulf.

The Saudis thus immediately stepped into the breach when Iran abruptly reduced its oil exports. They thus helped to ensure that a supply bottleneck did not arise.

Third, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan transformed the Gulf in general, and Saudi Arabia in particular, into the vortex of Western security interests, including Bonn's, overnight.

It looked as though the area might be turned into a world hot spot and run the risk of setting the scene for a military clash between the two superpowers.

The industrialised Western countries were worried about unhindered supplies of vital energy imports without which their economic security would be devastated.

Cordial ties with Saudi Arabia assumed overriding importance, and that was the situation when in summer 1980 Chancellor Helmut Schmidt welcomed King Khaled to Bonn.

The late King ruled a country from which Germany imported more than a quarter of its oil. He reaffirmed his interest in arms deals with West Germany and the Chancellor promised to give the matter careful consideration.

Herr Schmidt intended to reach a decision on the Saudis' shopping list for military hardware by the end of the year.

A rational process of decision-making was rendered virtually impossible when at the end of 1980 Social Democrats were outraged by the delivery of German-made submarines to the Pinochet regime in Chile.

The Social Democrats, Chancellor Schmidt's party, did not learn of the decision by the Federal Security Council until after the event. This was due to a serious breakdown in communications.

The Bonn government was virtually no longer in a position to give sober consideration to whether vital economic security interests might not be at stake in the Persian Gulf that warranted exporting arms to Saudi Arabia.

This issue was totally upstaged by an ideologically-tinged controversy within the SPD.

People close to feeling within the Social Democratic parliamentary party at the time said the Chancellor might have had an easy time of the arms deal with Saudi Arabia if only he had demonstratively refused to supply the submarines to Chile.

Whatever the truth may have been, the Bonn government was certainly subjected to hopeless pressure.

Worries over economic security that had overcome everyone after the shock of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were dispelled.

Besides, the permit procedure for arms exports was governed not only by the War Weapons Control Act and the Foreign Trade Act but also by a 1971 Cabinet ruling.

The ruling stipulated that no arms were to be exported to areas where tension prevailed. But it was inadequate to cover such a complicated case as that of Saudi Arabia.

That was why a fresh statement of political principles governing arms exports was decided on. It had the added advantage that time could be gained.

The political parties in the Bundestag were also expected to be forced to debate the issue and to reach clear-cut decisions on it.

Prior to Helmut Schmidt's April 1980 visit to Riyadh industry bombarded the Press with reports of wildly exaggerated Saudi expectations in respect of arms supplies from Germany.

In addition to the headline-hitting Leopard 2 tank the Saudis were said to be interested in other armour-plated vehicles and even anti-aircraft weapons.

Israel did not look on idly. It lodged a strongly-worded quasi-veto. Foreign Minister Genscher grew less enthusiastic when he noted the strength of opposition to an arms deal with Saudi Arabia in his own party, the Free Democrats.

‘The Saudis want to buy German, not American ... as a political decision’

The Defence Ministry noted that the Leopard Mk 2 included such advanced technology that it would really be better to sell it to no-one but Nato allies.

The Ministry took (and takes) a dim view of the foreign policy effect of the stationing of German arms experts and instructors in Saudi Arabia that would then become necessary.

On the eve of the discussion between Chancellor Schmidt and the Saudi leaders it was clear that all the Chancellor could do — again — was to make a vague interim statement.

The only explanation he could offer his Saudi hosts for his hesitation was a reference to German history, to domestic political resistance occasioned by this historical background and to the new arms export guidelines, on which work had yet to be completed.

But there was still no question of a clear-cut refusal to supply arms to the Saudis.

The atmosphere between the two delegations at the conference table in Riyadh was one of cordial ... but the reminder that it was ... Bonn made its mind up abo... liveries made a drastic fall in ... meter reading seem a distinc... ty.

Fear and trembling were ... number of faces in Bonn w... cellor Schmidt outlined the ... his return.

But Crown Prince Fahd, ... was, maintained his dignity ... no signs of emotion. In his ... tached overriding importance ... nate value of German-Saudi ...

He preferred not to insist ... deals he would have liked to ... He did not want to embarrass ... cellor.

On returning from the ... North-South summit in Canc... co, Fahd stopped over in Bonn ... Riyadh exchange of views was ... ed in a condensed from.

It is incomprehensible how ... so of events can be taken to ... that Helmut Schmidt made ... mitments, especially to sell the ... 2 to Saudi Arabia.

Chancellor Kohl was bound ... commitment given by his pre... In dealing with the Saudis he ... to make use of a relationship ... ribed by Helmut Schmidt as ...

"Outside Europe and after ... Saudi Arabia is our most ... partner."

It is a relationship that has ... been damaged by the disapp... of Saudi hopes. But Chancellor ... faced much the same burdens ... cellor Schmidt had.

The Saudis want to buy German ... pons because of their technical ... and because extra deliveries ... United States might make Riyadh ... tically too dependent on America ...

Saudi Arabia has played ... than a marginal military part ... Middle East warfare.

A level-headed assessment of ... requirements ought from the ... only to have led to the conclu... Leopard tanks cannot be suppl...

Not all Riyadh's arms requ... can be met: not so many and ... fast. The Kohl government, just ... predecessor, cannot decide fir... without consulting the coalition ...

Israel today has the signific... Christian Democrats that Chile ... Social Democrats three years ago ...

What irretrievable foreign pol... might possibly justify limited ... veries to Saudi Arabia? The ... is no longer what it was after the ... invasion of Afghanistan.

As for the Bonn government's ... leeway on the matter, there is ... choose between the administ... Helmut Schmidt and Helmut Kohl ...

Kurt B...

(Die Zeit, 7 Oct...)

The German Tribune

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GERMAN-AMERICAN TIES

Beneath the celebrations, a need to clarify a few misunderstandings

Many Americans do not understand that Germans can be pro-American and at the same time against ...yment of missiles in Europe.

...is is at the core of the danger to ...an-American friendship, a link ...has lasted for centuries. Politicians ...of course, claiming that the friend...is not at risk.

...American university professor ...: "The Germans are Europe's most ...endable Nato partners. They are the ...est admirers of the USA. And they are the people who will most readily resist a Soviet invasion." He said Germans saw no contradiction about being both pro American and against the missiles.

But many Americans don't understand the difference between the Greens andd the communists or between pacifists an enemies of the USA.

This could be because not enough young people from each country visit the other country.

There is still much ignorance about Germany in Washington. Exchange programmes have achieved little.

Even politicians realise that more must be done to preserve the friendship that has evolved not only as the result of the Berlin Airlift.

The *Pensylvanischer Staatsbote* was the first New World newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence — in German, and with a modest circulation of 813 copies.

The victorious American revolutionaries were then allied with the French. Hesse mercenaries fought on the side of the British, but many defected, married American girls and settled.

Many people in the German-speaking world did not know what was going on in America. Despite this Frederick the Great of Prussia signed the first trade agreement with the newly independent American republic.

In 1730, Benjamin Franklin said that what originates in Germany does best in America.

What he meant was not only *gemütlichkeit* and *gesundheit* (to cheer a sneeze). Nor did he mean just frankfurters, hamburgers, and sauerkraut.

Thomas Jefferson, who formulated most of the 1776 Declaration of Independence, said during a trip on the Rhine in 1788: "Everything in America that doesn't come from England comes from here."

The 13 Krefeld families that went to the New World 300 years ago founded Germantown near Philadelphia and ushered in organised German immigration.

They became the forebears of the 60 million Americans who in the last census said that they were of German descent (thus making Germann blood the strongest element in the American population, even before the Anglo Saxons).

But the German contribution goes far beyond cars, lederhosen, dirndls an oompah music. It even goes beyond the symbolic of the two American political parties — the Republican elephant and the Democrat donkey — which were suggested by the German cartoonist Thomas Nast.

Germany's position in the world will largely depend on America, said the highly respected German-American political leader, journalist, orator, and decicated reformer Carl Shurz of Liblar, late in the 19th century. He was one of the best-known German-Americans — long before Wernher von Braun, Albert Einstein and Henry Kissinger. How right he was.

But it is also legitimate to ask: What would America's position in Europe be without a close alliance with West Germany?

The political and military interests of the two countries overlap, as the four years since the two-track Nato decision have shown.

This brings us to the main threat of German-American friendship.

Professor Livingstone of Georgetown University, who is both a friend of the Germans and a man who minces no words, once said: "The Germans are Europe's most dependable Nato partners; they are the greatest admirers of the USA; and they are the people who will most readily resist a Soviet invasion."

Germans saw no contradiction in being pro-American (as polls shows) and against the deployment in their country of new American missiles.

But many Americans do not understand this. They also don't understand the difference between the Greens and communists; between pacifists and enemies of the USA.

The reason could be that few young Germans go and explore America. Few young Americans make a point of visiting Germany. Yet Germany — both East and West — warrants much more interist by the superpower America than it actually receives.

The improved Bonn-Washington consultations during the Geneva talks on intermediate range missiles are gratifying. But there is still much ignorance about German affairs on Capitol Hill.

Exchange programmes have achieved little. Nobody in Bonn should therefore be surprised to find that the Kohl government is frequently wrongly assessed. As a result the US Congress has often accused Bonn of being lax in defence matters. And sometimes doubt has beem voiced about Germany's dependability as a democracy and a partner in the Western Alliance.

This was even more prevalent during the Schmidt government than it is with today's centre-right government.

President Carsten's state visit cannot put everything on an even keel. But he should emphasise that the two World Wars only strained German-American relations, nothing more.

This was largely due to the generosity of the American nation — a nation the Germans helped build, starting with the Krefelders in 1683.

This is an important point at a time of stepped up propaganda over the deployment in Germany of new US missiles, if the Geneva talks break down.

Emil Bölte

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 4 October 1983)

Continued from page 1

...e in view of the arrival of Social ...ocratic Bundestag MPs advocating ...unacceptable compromise at Geneva ...a group led by no less a person than ...y Brandt.

...err Carstens told US leaders that ...n was its foremost partner and re...ed that the Atlantic alliance was set ...for defence, not for attack.

...or 30 years it had proved able to ...ntain peace and freedom, while the ...ited States had upheld its commit...nts toward Berlin.

...he Federal Republic was thankful ...the United States backed Bonn's ...of restoring German unity in a state ...peace and by means of self-determi...tion.

...he President also outlined the foun...tions of German-American friend...p. It was, he said, based on the Ger...n contribution toward the develop...nt of America, on America aid to ...many after the Second World War, ...the US commitment to defend Berlin ...on partnership in Nato.

...hen there were the joint endeavours ...keep the international economy in ...d health and, in particular, the fun...ental convictions held in common.

...hese were a belief in democracy, ...dom and the rule of law.

...ince the first friendship and trading ...ty was concluded between the King ...Prussia and the United States in 1785 ...de and trade policy have played an ...greater role in the evolution of ...man-American ties.

...ommemorative addresses generally ...d to overlook the fact that economic ...have made no less important a con...ution toward consolidation of part...hip than much-vaunted cultural ...security policy considerations.

...his made the assessment of Germa...s industrial contribution in the tech...ogical exhibition entitled Bridge ...r the Atlantic all the more welcome.

...display of German technological ...ievements, it ranged from the 200 ...overies made by Karl Proteus Stein...tz, a General Electric scientist, to the ...opean Spacelab.

...S investment in Germany totalling ...$15bn is still substantially higher ...n German investment in the United ...tes, but in recent years the figures ...e come a little closer.

...ritical issues in respect of competi...n in third countries, subsidies, pro...ionism, Third World indebtedness ...d technology transfer were discreetly ...lved during the celebrations.

...mong friends, the inference seemed ...he, criticism and differences of opi...on are normal.

Viola Herms Drath

(Handelsblatt, 6 October 1983)

Death and disease on high seas dogged the first migrants

It is exactly 300 years since the first German immigrants, 13 Pietist families from Krefeld, landed in Philadelphia after a tough Atlantic crossing marked by poor food, sickness and death.

The venture almost 200 years after Columbus discovered America triggered a boom. By 1775, when the War of Independence began, there were 250,000 Germans living in North America. In Pennsylvania they accounted for two-thirds of the population.

The influx of religious and economic refugees increased in the 19th century: 5.5 million Germans arrived between 1820 and 1914, including 215,000 in 1854 and 250,000 in 1882.

There was more to emigrating in those days than booking your passage and packing your bags. The German states were not prepared to let people leave at will. It was not until 1815 that free movement was even allowed within the German states.

And it took until 1871, when the Reich was founded, for the right to emigrate to be enacted.

Before then, those who wanted to leave had to buy their freedom to do so by paying ten per cent of what they possessed.

Yet so many left that the worried German principalities spoke of depopulation.

But once the depopulation worry was overcome the authorities seized on emigration as a welcome chance to get rid of people getting social security benefits and black sheep.

The tide of emigrants swelled to the point where America introduced legislation to stop the influx of paupers, criminals and prostitutes.

From the 1820s, the Germans sailed from the French port of Le Havre. But soon the German ports of Bremen and Bremerhaven entered the emigration business and lured passengers to German ships by offering them good accommodation and organisation.

Only 50,000 Germans sailed from Hamburg between 1836 and 1850. Six times as many sailed from Bremen.

But Hamburg began to catch up. In 1892 the shipping line *Hamburg Amerikanische Packetfahrt Actien Gesellschaft* (Hapag) built barracks along its piers for 1,400 emigrants.

In 1900/01 a whole settlement of temporary housing was built on city property in the port of Hamburg at a cost of 700,000 marks.

This was not done out of sympathy. It was to quarantine people arriving in Hamburg for embarkation in case they had diseases.

The emigrants did not particularly mind the quarantine. There was even offered luxury accommodation for those who could afford it.

Hapag's service on board ship included shops, entertainment and dancing.

Hamburg's transit facilities became an attraction: "There's a city within city that seems transplanted from foreign parts. Slavic men stroll the main streets wearing boots and curious hats. There are bevies of women in colourful skirts," is how journalist Norbert Jacques described it.

Not everybody succeeded in America. One in five returned after a short while either from homesickness, to spend the last years in their native land, or because they simply could not cope with an alien way of life.

Gisela Schütte

(Die Welt, 6 October 1983)

■ DEFENCE

Nuclear war by mistake unlikely, says minister

Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner says that as far as one can reasonably tell there can be no possibility of a nuclear war being waged by mistake.

Comparisons drawn with the shooting down of the Korean airliner are in his view inappropriate.

Interviewed in Bonn, Herr Wörner said both superpowers had taken far-reaching precautions to ensure that mistakes couldn't happen.

Computers might be growing increasingly perfect, but in America he was sure the decisions were taken by people, not by machines.

There were also various security stages. Mishaps involving technical hitches that triggered warnings had generally been spotted, and remedial action taken, by people at the first level of security checks.

Following this first level there were at least four further stages involving technical checks or surveillance by individuals.

As for the shooting down of the Korean Jumbo, Herr Wörner said it had been the result of calculated considerations on the part of high-ranking Soviet leaders.

The airliner had been pursued for so long by Soviet aircraft that the decision to shoot it down could not have been taken locally, let alone by the pilot.

The incident had been an instance of a dictatorial regime making brutal use of its military might, whatever the motives might have been.

There had definitely been no question of nervousness or of automatic responses being involved.

In principle, international regulations were sufficient to deal with airliners that were off-course and in sensitive air space.

They were adequate, he felt, as long as they were abided by. But we ought also to try and improve them.

Opinion poll findings that over 75 per cent of Germans questioned were opposed to the stationing of new missiles had not surprised him in the least, Herr Wörner said.

It was only natural to respond in this way. The question had been phrased in such a way that virtually no other answer was possible.

Yet surveys had also clearly shown that an overwhelming majority of Germans felt Nato was indispensable and were in favour of the Bundeswehr and of defence commitments.

Wherever open days were held at military installations or recruits were sworn in at public ceremonies, the general public showed keen interest.

The so-called peace movement was only a tiny minority in relation to the population as a whole.

The electorate had voted in favour of the present Bonn government by a clear majority and were well aware of the government's views on security issues.

An attempt was now being made to undermine this majority decision by a minority. The government was not going to allow itself to be irritated by this bid, and certainly not to be persuaded to change its policy.

"We are not going to allow anxiety to spread, an anxiety that some are artificially fomenting and others may genuinely feel," he said.

"There is no risk of war and will be none in future provided we continue to pursue the right peace policy."

He was also questioned on the declarations by the World Council of Churches in Vancouver stigmatising the manufacture and stationing of nuclear weapons.

Herr Wörner said he took such statements seriously, but in this case the declaration steered clear of crucial issues and reached the wrong conclusions.

"Peace is not in jeopardy because weapons exist, not even nuclear weapons, but because there are dictatorships that are prepared to use their weapons as a threat."

He had been disappointed that the World Council of Churches had made not the slightest distinction between aggressors and defenders, between democracy and dictatorship.

Oskar Lafontaine, Social Democratic mayor of Saarbrücken and a member of the SPD national executive, has suggested that Germany should withdraw from Nato.

Herr Wörner said that would mean forfeiting security, and with it peace. It would not be long before the Federal Republic bowed to the dictates of the Soviet Union, where occupied by Russia or not.

Egon Bahr, SPD disarmament expert and another member of the national executive, has said that if the West were to go ahead with missile modernisation the East would install even faster missiles in return. Herr Wörner said that was just a bluff. The Soviet Union had developed shorter-range missiles long before Nato arrived at its dual-track decision in December 1979. They were the SS-21, 22 and 23, and the SS-21 was already being stationed. It was regrettable that Herr Bahr, who knew better, had adopted the East's argument.

Chocks away... Defence Minister Manfred Wörner in the Luftwaffe reserve. (Photo:

Anyone who wanted to depart from the dual-track decision should say so openly. To want to postpone missile modernisation if the Russians showed no signs of willingness to compromise at Geneva was to fail to appreciate the problem of the existing Soviet missile build-up.

Anyone who wanted to postpone missile modernisation had to realise that he was making disarmament talks pointless. Those who advocated postponement today would find reasons to advocate it tomorrow.

In the meantime the Soviet Union would calmly carry on with its own missile build-up.

Two points that arise from the Soviet arms programme particularly worry Herr Wörner. One is Soviet superiority in the conventional sector, the other that Moscow is going ahead with its nuclear programme at such a ra[te] establishing an increasing lea[d in Cen]tral Europe.

Bonn's aim must be to ra[ise the nu]clear threshold, and that cou[ld be] achieved by strengthening co[nventional] defences and making full use of [techno]logical and financial opport[unities for] doing so.

Herr Wörner felt that in pri[nciple a] reduction in the number of nu[clear war]heads was right. The West ha[d with]drawn 1,000 warheads in 1981.

Few knew that we now had [fewer] nuclear warheads, both strat[egic and] tactical, than in the late 1960s.

"Everyone, including me, w[ants] defence to be possible with [fewer nu]clear weapons. Nato is current[ly under]taking a survey, with which I a[m in] agreement, to consider whethe[r a fur]ther reduction in their number [is] feasible.".

Helmut B[...]

(Der Tagesspiegel, 11 Septe[mber 1983])

Schmidt sticks by missiles decision

Former Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has reiterated his support in principle for the Nato dual-track decision policy he largely helped to frame in the late 1970s.

Speaking in Hamburg he said that on Eurostrategic weapons the Soviet Union had disregarded solemn public undertakings and established a clear superiority, making it essential to redress the balance.

Herr Schmidt outlined his views on a new Nato strategy at a ceremony held to mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Bundeswehr University.

He was strongly critical of Moscow. In connection with the Soviet medium-range missile build-up he accused Russia of having gravely violated both the 1972 US-Soviet declaration of principles and the 1978 German-Soviet Bonn declarations.

In both cases Moscow acknowledged that any further arms build-up in the medium-range sector was unnecessary from the viewpoint of Soviet security.

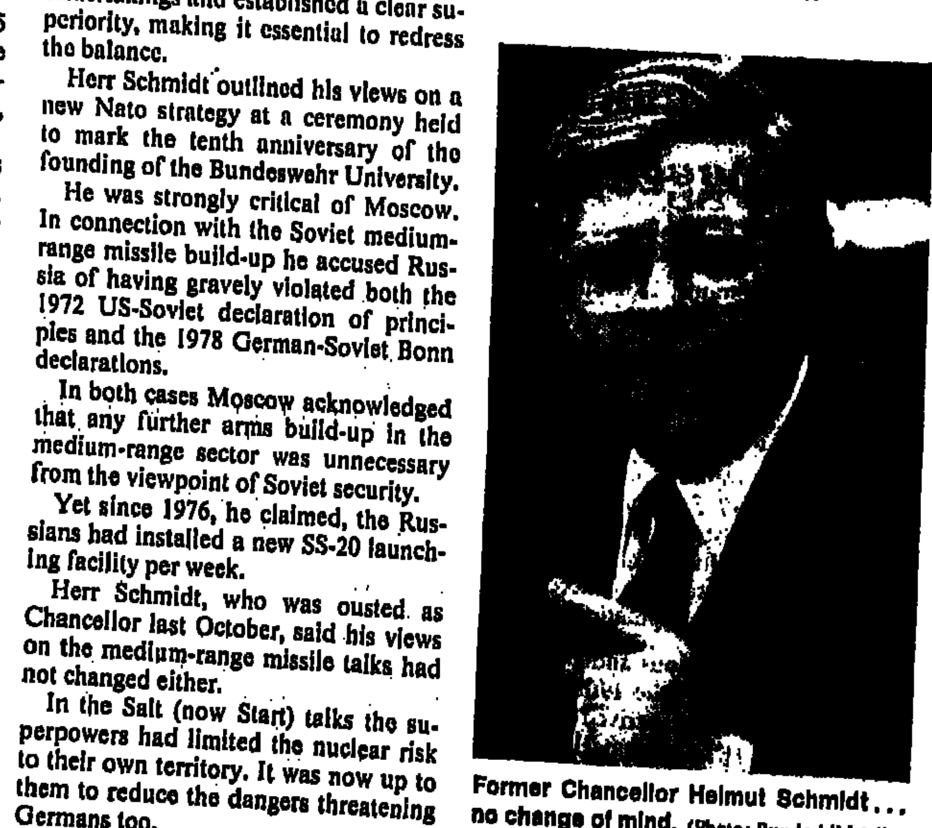
Yet since 1976, he claimed, the Russians had installed a new SS-20 launching facility per week.

Herr Schmidt, who was ousted as Chancellor last October, said his views on the medium-range missile talks had not changed either.

In the Salt (now Start) talks the superpowers had limited the nuclear risk to their own territory. It was now up to them to reduce the dangers threatening Germans too.

He said that in his view the "walk in woods" proposal drawn up in Geneva in the summer of 1982 would have been a compromise both sides could have accepted.

Outlining his general view on the role



Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt... no change of mind. (Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

of nuclear weapons, he said: "The world will continue to be hallmarked by the fact that atomic weapons exist."

But with regard to the defence of Europe he added that he felt that as the 1980s went by, the idea of first use of nuclear weapons by Nato in resp[onse to] a conventional Eastern attack w[ould in]creasingly come to be viewed a[s unac]ceptable.

In the end it would be seen [as inap]propriate, which was why th[e West] would need to look for means o[f ensur]ing that it was the other side wh[ich had] to decide on first use.

A conventional balance need[ed to be] restored in Europe and safe[guarded] like the intercontinental bala[nce by] treaties with the Soviet Union.

The crucial shortcoming of N[ato de]fence was the armed forces' la[ck of] manpower reserves capable of [being] mobilised.

It was wrong to believe missi[ng sol]diers could be replaced by high[er de]fence spending. That was why Ge[rmany] had retained conscription, where[as the] United States had abolished it in [...]

If all Western armies possessed [the] Bundeswehr's mobilisation capaci[ty, he] said, it would be no means be neces[sary] for the West to resort at an early [stage] of hostilities to the first use of [...] nuclear weapons and to call this [...] ble response.

The West's defence strategy onl[y had] an effect on the other side that pr[event]ed war when it was credible. Cred[ibili]ty, he felt, was not its strong point.

"In this respect we suffer from [in]creasing shortcomings in our [...] public opinion." This applied to p[...] ments from Washington to Bonn, [to the] churches and to the universities.

If that were not to change and [the] West's defence capability grew in[crea]singly doubtful the Soviet Union m[ight,] Herr Schmidt said, jump to false [con]clusions.

Rüdiger M[...]

(Die Welt, 4 Octobe[r 1983])

■ TRADE

Plans to steady commodity prices fall through

[...] Third World countries depend on a [...] range of commodities for foreign [...]s. Falling commodity prices over [the las]t few years have hit these coun[tries ha]rd. Plans were drawn up to stabi[lise] commodity prices but these have [f]allen through.

[T]he biblical story of Joseph, who hoarded wheat during the seven fat [years] and sold it in the lean years, is the [first] recorded case of crisis management [throu]gh buffer stocks.

[Bu]t this first attempt at an active [com]modity policy was supported by the [exce]llent forecasting technique of Jo[seph]'s dream interpreter. It was there[fore] much more successful than similar [attem]pts today.

[Th]e aim of the existing five commodity agreements on coffee, cocoa, sugar, [rubb]er and tin is to balance demand [and] supply on world markets and pre[vent] steep price fluctuations.

[W]hen the price drops below a preset [ben]chmark, the buffer stock managers [buy] the commodity and stockpile it. [Con]versely, when the price rises beyond [a p]reset point some of the stockpiled [com]modity is thrown on the market.

[T]he world economic crisis of the past [fe]w years has shown this mechanism [to b]e totally ineffectual. Fuelled by [com]modity future deals in London and [Ne]w York ownership can change rapid[ly] and prices have fallen between 10 [and] 60 per cent.

[A] basket of the world's 30 most im[port]ant commodities has dropped 19 [per] cent since 1980.

[Th]e cocoa price plummeted through [the] bottom benchmark of US$1 per [pou]nd when buffer stockpiles were [bri]mming and coffers were empty. The [agre]ement expired at the end of last [year]. The world market price of cocoa [is n]ow down to 76 cents.

[Su]ch price fluctuations are disastrous [for] developing countries: 24 of them get [a] fifth of their export earnings from [coff]ee alone. Uganda 97 per cent, and [Col]ombia, Germany's main supplier, 65 [per] cent, are most dependent.

Coffee is the Third World's most im[por]tant trading commodity after oil. It [acco]unts for $11bn a year.

[Th]e representatives of 48 producer [and] 26 consumer countries met in London last month. They started their meeting with a gala dinner to celebrate the [...] anniversary of the first commodity [agre]ement between the industrial and developing worlds.

[Th]e 1983 agreement was preceded by [a d]ramatic price slump that hit the ["co]ffee republics" like a sledgehammer. [W]ashington was not prepared to wait [for] the Cuban revolution to spread to [the r]est of Latin America. So it joined [for]ces with Brazil, which accounts for [a] third of the world's coffee produc[tion], in a bid to stabilise export ear[ning]s.

[Af]ter a severe frost in 1975 had des[troy]ed more than half of Brazil's coffee [har]vest prices quadrupled and the stabi[lisati]on bid failed. But in 1977 coffee [pric]es dropped below pre-frost levels.

[I]t was not until the major Latin Ame[rica]n producers formed the Bogota [gro]up to speculate on the New York [C]ommodity Exchange and so halted the price decline that the USA decided to revive the shelved coffee agreement.

The idea now was no longer to use buffer stocks to stabilise prices but to impose export quotas on the individual producer countries.

When the price drops below $1.20 a pound the quotas are reduced, and when it rises above $1.40 they are raised.

What buffer stocks failed to achieve with other commodities has worked with the quota system for coffee. Prices have been relatively stable since 1980 despite a considerable surplus production.

Present global stocks amount to 40 million sacks (of 60 kilos each). This is about half a year's harvest.

To get rid of the coffee that does not fall under the export quotas, many producer countries sold to non-members of the agreement at dumping prices.

The central issue at the London meeting was therefore how to overcome this split in the market.

The consumer countries urged that the existing price range should be reduced or at least maintained to prevent giving an incentive for over-production.

Developing countries, on the other hand, argued that the industrial goods they import are also becoming more expensive all the time.

A 16-ton lorry cost Brazil the equivalent of 66 sacks of coffee in 1969. It now costs double in coffee terms.

Negotiations are not yet concluded, but pundits expect that the old price range of $1.20 to $1.40 will be retained.

This will be made easier by the fact that one bone of contention was settled last year when the producer countries reached agreement on how to divide the cake.

Sugar, which is now being negotiated in Geneva is a more difficult issue. The main reason why no agreement has yet been reached is that the world's second largest exporter, the EEC, has not been prepared to agree.

The Community nations want to prevent their surplus production that is thrown on the world market at subsidised prices from being reduced. Germany alone produces 25 per cent more sugar than it consumes.

The stabilisation of Third World commodity earnings has been a key issue of all North-South conferences since the mid-1970s.

International commodities fund

Share of contributions (%): Industrial nations 69; Producers 10; East Bloc 17; China 5

Votes in administration of fund (%): Industrial nations 42; Producers 47; East Bloc 8; China 3

Fund cash $750 mill

First use $400 mill to stabilise prices: Bufferstocks for commodities such as rubber, coffee, cocoa, tea, hemp, jute, tin, copper, cotton (planned).

Second use $350 mill for structural improvements: Industr. develop. of producer lands; Improvement of marketing conditions; Research and development

ZAHLENBILDER 636 100 © Erich Schmidt Verlag

At the 1976 Unctad conference in Nairobi, the developing nations presented a draft integrated raw material programme centring around a common fund for all commodity agreements.

The industrial nations have long opposed such a "central marketing authority" that would interfere with market forces. But in 1980, when they succeeded in watering down the original blueprint, they changed their mind.

The new fund was to have been divided in two: $400m in support of existing and new commodity agreements and $350m to improve the market position of those products that, for whatever reasons, cannot be regulated through agrements.

The parties to the agreement were given until 30 September to ratify the common fund.

As a precaution, Bonn set aside DM35m in its 1984 budget (the German share) but there is little likelihood that the money will ever be used.

Dieter Kebschull of the Hamburg-based HWWA Institute considers the common fund idea "as good as dead".

To come into force, the agreement must be ratified by at least 90 countries which would provide two-thirds of the money.

On the day before the deadline only 56 countries accounting for 37 per cent of the money were prepared to ratify. Among the major countries missing were the USA and the Soviet Union.

The Americans criticise the fund for its interference in market forces, and the USSR blames the former colonial powers for the fact that the Third World countries have developed monocultures and depend on so few commodities for export earnings.

According to Kebschull, many developing countries are now also sceptical about the fund. They argue that money would be taken out of functioning commodity agreements to support those that do not work.

This is also the reason why the coffee countries in particular are no longer interested.

But their hopes could prove deceptive. A World Bank study shows that coffee prices will be lagging behind those for industrial goods until the 1990s.

Demand for coffee is unlikely to rise by more than one per cent a year. So everything will depend on whether the producer countries manage to reduce their output, the study says.

The coffee agreement cannot function in the long run as long as there are constant surpluses. Less is more in the tricky game of export quotas, world market prices and export earnings, the report says.

The imbalance of North-South trade has many faces. Bangladesh, Asia's poor house, is earning less and less from its only important export commodity, jute.

The spreading use of synthetics has reduced world jute consumption from an annual 800,000 tons to 530,000 tons in ten years. The price per ton has tumbled from $600 to $165.

Other Third World countries are at the mercy of speculators and multinational corporations that dictate prices and pocket most of the proceeds.

Sri Lanka sees no more than 15 to 20 pfennigs of every deutschemark Germans spend on tea. The same applies to Kenya. Tea is a crass case because new producers in Africa are now competing with the traditional growers in Asia. Moreover, as the producers are disunited this makes common action impossible.

The developing countries had pinned great hopes for the common fund on the Unctad VI conference in Belgrade earlier this year.

Though Bonn had promised to ratify the fund this year, the Bonn-London-Washington axis was not prepared to make any further concessions.

Trade barriers and high tariffs on industrial goods imposed by the EEC and the USA have prevented Third World countries from, processing their raw materials and exporting the finished products to the industrial world.

But the West is also increasingly —

Continued on page 6

Commodities from the Third World

Third World share of World exports in % (1976-80)

Copra 100 %; Rubber 98; Coffee 97; Palm oil 96; Cocoa 96; Bananas 94; Sugar 63; Cotton 47; Rice 40; Wood 30; Iron ore 44; Copper 63; Phosphates 64; Tin 86

ZAHLENBILDER 651 283 © Erich Schmidt Verlag

■ EMPLOYMENT

Why firms won't hire more apprentices

Many companies are reluctant to hire apprentices because of the cost of training them, according to a report.

The survey, by the CDU economic council *(Wirtschaftsrat)*, reveals that 45 per cent of companies polled gave this reason for not taking on more apprentices.

Pay was only one item. In 1980 it averaged out at DM5,954 a year. But the gross cost per apprentice was about DM17,000 a year. It was as high as DM30,000 in some cases.

The survey was carried out among 1,200 firms. It shows that even the most expensive apprentice is cheaper than a university student. But the student's costs are paid by the taxpayer.

Apprentices spent a short time actually at the work bench, say the respondent companies. By the time two days a week at school, training time outside the company and 30 days annual holiday were deducted, the apprentice worked for about only 90 days a year.

This made training costs DM23.70 an hour. A qualified factory worker in 1980 earned only DM23.40 an hour.

The *Wirtschaftsrat* recommends that schooling be cut back and on-the-job training be increased. Apprentice pay should not be increased over the next few years.

Companies made about 40 other objections to hiring apprentices. They included youth protection laws such as a ban on Sunday work and job restrictions because certain work was regarded as dangerous.

Education standards were criticised. Forty-four per cent of the firms said a major reason for rejecting applicants was lack of education, particularly maths and spelling.

The situation was not helped by vocational schools. They gave no German-language courses, so apprentices could not improve through formal education.

The Federal Labour Office also comes under fire. The government employment bureau is accused of sending wrong applicants to wrong companies.

"Counsellors often know neither the companies nor job qualifications. This ignorance results in misdirecting applicants which leads to not only delays in placement but unnecessary frustration for the applicant."

The Labour Office should give aptitude tests to applicants before sending them for interviews. This would reduce the number of rejections and multiple applications.

Complaints were also made about behaviour. This was sometimes bad enough for apprentices to be dismissed during their probation time.

Some chewed gum, wore punk clothes and even appeared slightly drunk at interviews, reported the survey.

Among the most frequent reason for dismissal were lack of interest, lack of motivation and listlessness. It was suggested that the reason for poor performance should be sought in schools and in the home.

Part of the reason was the negative image given to businessmen through some of the media. This was partly influenced by the trade unions.

The survey gives no clue about how much the businessman himself is to blame for his own poor image.

Wolfgang Hoffmann

(Die Zeit, 7 October 1983)



Young man's new chapter

Out of the apprenticeship. A newly qualified book printer is symbolically ducked in a ceremony dating back to the time of Gutenberg. This occasion was in Mainz. (Photo: dpa)

World commodity prices

Continued from page 5

though indirectly — felling the consequences of the raw materials crisis.

The inability of many developing countries to repay their debts is as much part of this crises as is German industry's declining exports to the Third World. Last year's exports to the developing world were down three per cent, and this year's figures are stagnating.

At least 1.35 million jobs depend on exports to the Third World, says the German Institute for Economic Research.

Bonn's cure-all for raw materials-producing developing countries is the stabilisation of export earnings. Its idea is that world market mechanisms should no longer be tampered with. Instead, countries hit by commodity price slumps should be compensated for their losses.

This system has been operating in a rudimentary fashion between the EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) since the 1970s.

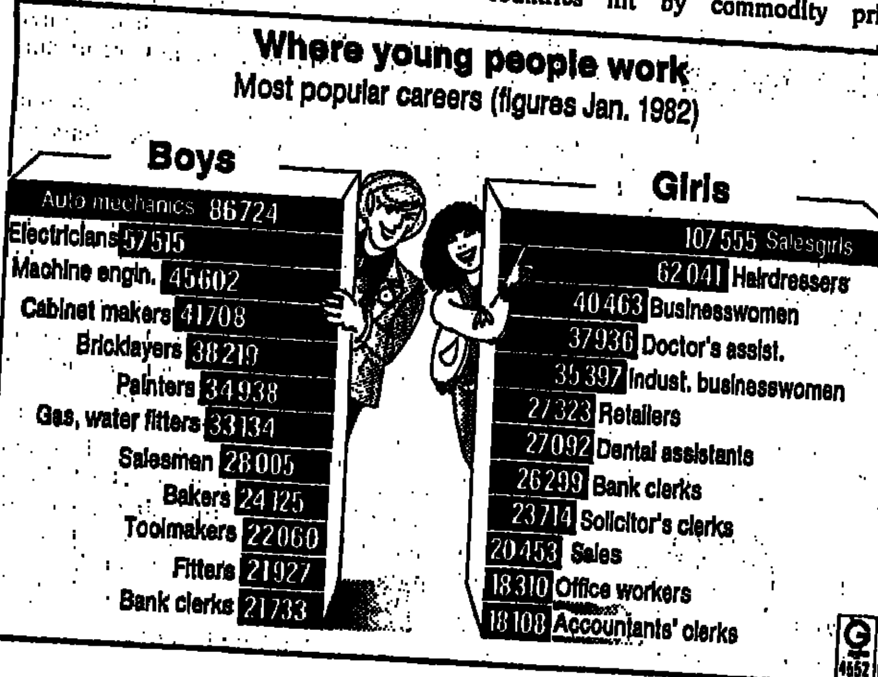
The Community set aside about DM1.5bn to stabilise commodity earnings during the five-year period of the last Lomé Convention.

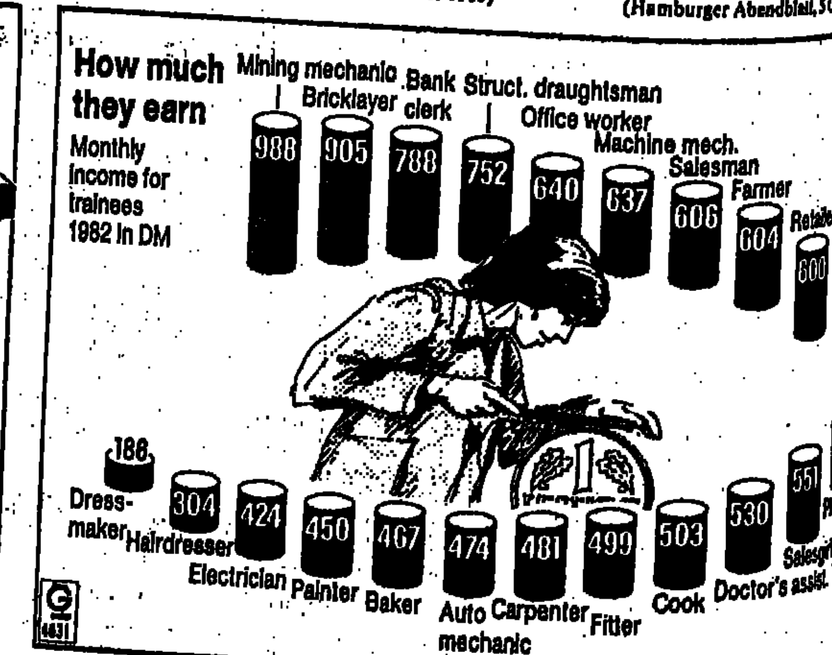
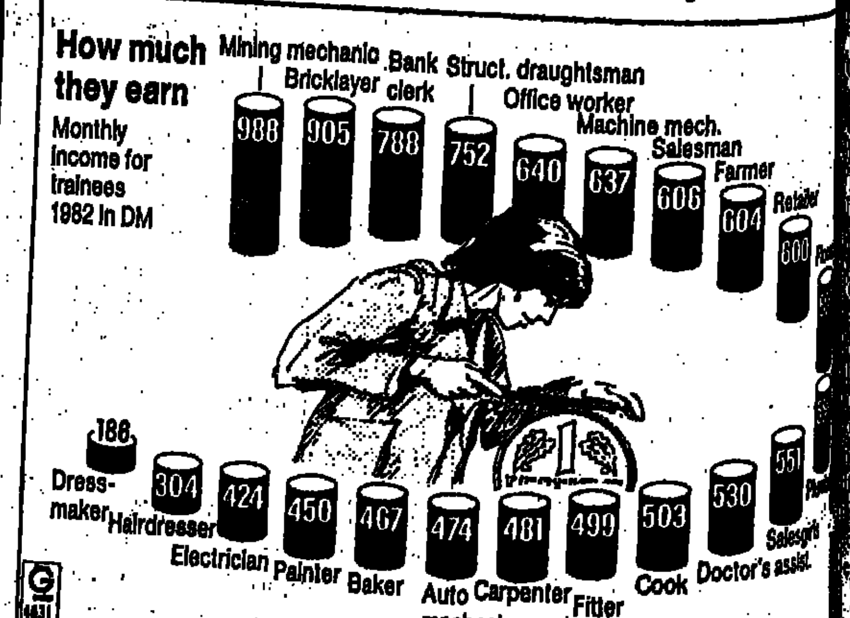
But the Brussels stabilisation coffers emptied quickly as a wide range of commodity prices plummeted.

Negotiations on Lomé are now beginning in Brussels. To prove that the stabilisation system works, the Community will have to boost its funding for it.

Roland Bunzenthal

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 October 1983)



Cash grant for trade training

The Bonn Cabinet has ... DM160m plan to ... training for between 7,000 ... young people.

Federal Education Minister ... Wilms says the money will ... mainly in areas where there ... prenticeship vacancies and ... ment is high. Priority will be ... girls.

The scheme will not be ... disc company training. All ... will be non-company.

Trade guilds and chambers ... merce and industry have been ... support the scheme.

The programme will be ... who were unable to find a ... place by 30 September. Training ... begin by 31 March next year ...

The pay is to be restricted ... a month. The government will ... social security costs.

Training is to be switched ... ny apprenticeships as soon as ...

There will be no need for ...

federal budget funds this year ... Instead, an initial DM3m will be ... elsewhere and DM85m will be ... from the Labour Ministry budget ... Education Ministry.

Another DM72m will be sp... ween 1985 and 1987.

Frau Wilms said that the ... able so far show that the business ... munity has honoured its undertaking ... provide 685,000 company ap... ships this year — 30,000 more ... year.

The number of applicants was ... than anticipated at the beginning ... year.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 5 Oc...)

Unemployment among ... in Germany

Under 20s out of work (first quarter figures)

■ FINANCE

German paradox: economy improves despite exports

The German economy is slowly improving. For the first time since the ... the improvement is not because of ... but despite them.

Export performance is having a damper effect on growth. That is one ... why the upturn expected after ... change of government in Bonn has ... much smaller than hoped for.

Exports in the first seven months ... down by 2.2 per cent compared to ... year. That is more than DM5bn.

... major customers, France and the ... countries, cut their German imports ... respectively by nine and 16 per ... over the period.

... figures would have been even ... but for Britain and the East Bloc. ... took 12 per cent and 10 per cent ... respectively.

... drop in business was expected with ... oping countries. But instead there ... little growth.

... drop in exports overall is surprising ... cause the deutschemark has weakened against important currencies such as the dollar and the yen. This should have given German industry and advantage. But it has not worked out that way.

It had been forecast that the upturn in the United States would have given world trade a boost. But its effect on German exports appears to have been small.

Despite considerable American demand, exporters to the USA benefited only moderately, by 2.4 per cent.

But the mood among exporters has improved. July saw the first rise in export orders for a long time, making them forget the simultaneous slump in domestic orders.

Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff now expects exports to pick up. He also expects domestic investment to get off the ground again because production facilities are being more fully used.

But there is much to indicate that the boom in orders will not last. Even the otherwise rather optimistic Bundesbank thinks so. It has warned that one good month does not necessarily mean a trend.

There are important reasons to assume that there will be no runaway growth in exports. The upturn in the USA is slowing and Third World demand is likely to decline. And EEC nations are likely to cut imports markedly next year.

Important Community countries (almost half Germany's foreign trade is within the EEC) have started drive to balance trade figures by reducing domestic power.

This means that the European market will become smaller and exports considerably more difficult — serious for a country as export-dependent as Germany.

Major trading partners like Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium cannot afford to maintain the present level of imports. And France, by far the most important buyer of German goods, wants to eliminate its trade deficit which last year was FF100bn.

West Germany accounts for close to half of France's deficit, so it is obvious who will have to suffer.

Balanced trade between France and Germany can only be achieved if the franc is not overvalued against the deutschemark. But that is exactly what it is only six months after the last devaluation.

Despite government efforts, prices in France are rising at three times the German rate.

It is therefore only a matter of time before the franc comes under pressure again, necessitating a new realignment of exchange rates within the European Monetary System (EMS).

And since such realignments usually include all EMS currencies, the deutschemark is bound to be revalued steeply against the other EMS currencies by the beginning of next year at the latest.

Experience with the last revaluation shows that in times of stagnating world trade a revaluation of the deutschemark would detract from Germany's competitiveness within the EEC.

So that rules out an export miracle to put the sagging economy back on its feet.

Hans Georg Linder

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 3 October 1983)

The world's biggest traders

Exports in $billion (1982)

Country	Exports
USA	212
Fed. Rep. Germany	176
Japan	139
Britain	97
France	97
USSR	87
Saudi Arabia	76
Italy	74
Canada	71
Holland	66
Belg./Lux.	52
Sweden	27
Switz.	26
South Korea	22
Mexico	22

Lambsdorff in China to promote trade

German-Chinese trade is picking up after marking time last year. German shipments to China rose by well ... 40 per cent in the first seven ... of this year against the same ... in 1982.

... reason is that some projects that ... been slowed down in the early ... are now being speeded up.

... Economic Affairs Minister ... Lambsdorff is in Peking for the ... conference of the German-Chinese Economic Affairs Committee.

Count Lambsdorff is aiming to promote trade and industrial cooperation. ... will sign an investment promotion ... protection agreement intended to ... joint ventures between Germany and China.

Machinery, shipbuilding and steel account for most of the increase in exports. The export of steel pipes rose 15-fold ... the same period last year. Machine exports were up 15 per cent.

In addition, China has ships worth ... 12m on order, including six container vessels that are to be subsidised ... grants to German shipyards.

German-Chinese trade reached its ... in 1981 with a value of DM4bn. In ... it dropped to DM3.7bn because of ... Peking's more cautious import policy.

Trade will not rise as dramatically as ... the 1970s but it will nevertheless pick ... the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry expects.

China's 6th Five-year Plan which was ... in December provides for the ... development of the coal industry, the ... network, harbours, inland shipping ... new power stations.

Cooperation with Germany's small ... medium sized firms is likely to be ... difficult. Although a Chinese delegation ... proposed 250 medium sized projects, most of them have not yet got beyond the idea stage.

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 October 1983)

Pipeline: Soviet cunning won big advantages

The Soviet Union cleverly played Western bankers off against one another to wring big advantages in credits for the recently completed Siberian pipeline.

France offered the lowest rate, 7.8 per cent, for credit involving French contracts. The Russians demanded this rate from all banks and were given it.

State subsidies made this interest rate possible in France and Italy. In Germany, it was the pipeline component makers who suffered.

The Soviet tactics in the negotiations have been revealed by the former head of the Deutsche Bank office in Moscow, Axel Lebahn, writing in the German quarterly foreign affairs review, *Aussenpolitik*.

He said German banks were given no State subsidy. They could not themselves pay for the deficit caused by the low rate. So exporters given the loans had to pay the difference between the terms agreed on and actual costs.

This meant increasing prices to uncompetitive levels, in some cases as high as 33 per cent. German firms were expected to win the major share of the DM10bn value of the pipeline contracts but in the end they cornered only a small amount.

German firms which did win contracts had to accept low profits or even losses just to keep production going and keep jobs.

Yet it was the German companies who had played a leading part in the tedious and politically controversial negotiations.

Italy and France managed to secure privileged positions for themselves.

The Soviets were equally clever in playing one country against the other when it came to negotiating prices, writes Lebahn.

There was a sort of "negotiation merry-go-round" in the course of which the Russian delegates sounded out German suppliers first and then did the same in Italy, France, Japan and other countries.

In this way they negotiated in stages but parallel with competing countries and suppliers.

This enabled them to almost simultaneously present competing Western firms with tenders they received from others, using this to obtain the best terms.

In the years of negotiating, Western exporters lowered their priced up to 60 per cent, according to Soviet sources.

Iron and steel group Salzgitter withdrew a bid because Soviet demands were not commercially feasible.

A Dutch bid to obtain better terms and conditions by forming an interest group of all suppliers prompted the Soviets to cancel all orders from Dutch firms. The Netherlands responded by waiving additional gas purchases from the Soviet Union.

The Japanese elbowed their way into what was originally a purely Soviet-European project to the extent where they then captured the lion's share of the orders.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 30 September 1983)

Gas pipeline sections made by Mannesmann ready for shipment to the Soviet Union. (Photo: Sven Simon)

■ MIGRANTS POLICIES

No quick solutions in sight in spite of good intentions

For the past year Chancellor Kohl's government has given priority to action on migrant workers and their families. But very little has actually been accomplished.

It has consistently said that it couldn't work wonders. That is very much to its credit, an its performance need not be assessed in terms of miracles.

But it did promise to deal promptly with urgent problems facing the country, and in this case it has failed to live up to its promise.

Policy on migrant workers formed part of the priority programme listed in Helmut Kohl's 13 October 1982 government policy statement. It was framed with reference to three fundamental concepts:

● integration of foreign residents as the overriding objective,

● limitation of any further influx by means of a continued ban on recruitment of migrant workers and restrictions on arrangements for their families to join them;

● promotion and facilitation of readiness on the part of foreign nationals to return to their countries of origin.

Integration is clearly not an objective that can be achieved in the lifetime of a single parliament; it is a permanent task.

Taken seriously as a target, it will not be envisaged by means of decrees. Integration cannot be imposed from above.

So all one can do is check whether measures have been undertaken that are likely to further the objective. They may be designed to eliminate obstacles or to forestall trends that are likely to make integration more difficult.

Between October 1982 and March 1983, when the general election was held, only one move was made by Chancellor Kohl's government.

Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann set up a working party consisting of Federal and *Land* government and local authority representatives to review the problem.

By March 1983 they were to submit a report on the problems of aliens policy and possibilities of solving them.

They finished their work on time and the Bonn Cabinet expressed satisfaction. Their recommendations have since been under consideration by Interior Ministry and Labour Ministry officials.

But no-one yet knows what proposals Ministry officials will end up by submitting; they have been given no clear guidance by the government on what is required.

In one respect alone does the March 1983 coalition agreement avoid generalisation and get down to brass tacks on aliens policy.

Labour Minister Norbert Blüm was called on to draft proposals for financial incentives to encourage migrant workers to return home. This point has been dealt with. Herr Blüm came to terms with Finance Minister Stoltenberg in next to no time and legislation has been tabled. In view of shortage of cash a repatriation grant not exceeding DM10,500 will be offered to migrant workers willing to return home with their families for good. The offer will be open to migrant workers from Yugoslavia, Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. They will also be entitled to cash save-as-you-earn deposits immediately and to an immediate refund of their employee's contributions to their respective pension fund.

All that can otherwise be said is that the Bonn government has kept up the ban on recruitment of migrant workers in force since 1973.

But that was a point on which all were agreed from the outset, so it cannot be claimed to have been part of any grand design.

So that is as far as Bonn's aliens policy has progressed over the past year, apart from visits to Turkey by politicians ranging from Berlin mayor Richard Weizsäcker to Labour Minister Blüm and Interior Minister Zimmermann.

These visits may have been necessary and useful to check the view taken by the government hardest-hit by Bonn's policy (over one foreign resident in three in the Federal Republic of Germany is a Turk.

But no action has been taken by the Bonn government as a result, an there is a wide range of specific moves need discussing.

Herr Zimmermann, for instance, outlined this summer in a lengthy speech to the Bundestag home affairs comittee where he proposed to amend the Aliens Act.

The main features of the Bill, he said, would be:

● a catalogue of grounds on which applications for a residence permit could be refused;

● a temporary residence category for, say, study purposes that ruled out any subsequent qualification for permanent residence;

● the introduction of a right of residence for family members that was linked to and expired with the breadwinner's work permit;

● compulsory (not automatic) residence permits for foreign nationals aged under 16;

● legal consolidation of the residential status of foreign nationals who have lived and worked in Germany for years;

● additional measures to combat CDU, the CSU and the FDP, stake out the broad outlines of polic going to happen.

Not until preliminary talk held can the Cabinet get do tails such as the Aliens Bil then can the Interior Minis crime and political extremi foreign residents;

● clear legal provisions gov right to join families, includ husbands or wives.

If it were up to Herr Zim the Bill would already have be duced. But it isn't, certainly aliens policy is concerned.

The Interior Ministry offici ing on the draft have their The Minister is waiting for th to adopt guidelines.

None are forthcoming, and simple reason that aliens p controversial coalition issue cellor has so far chosen to ski

The Free Democrats, junior in the coalition led by Ch mocrat Kohl, make no secre dislikes of restrictive aliens po sures such as Herr Zimmerman are urgently needed, especially spect of the Turks.

Aliens commissioner Liselotte F a Free Democrat, is at dagger with Herr Zimmermann, and seems increasingly determined a stand over the issue.

The Liberals are strongly opp his plan to reduce from 16 to at which migrant workers' must qualify for residence perm

The Free Democrats are so their left-wingers argue, be FDP has already made far to concessions to the current Bon tion.

As long as Herr Kohl fails to issue at the coalition talks ders of the three coalition par a Bill in keeping with Cabinet lines.

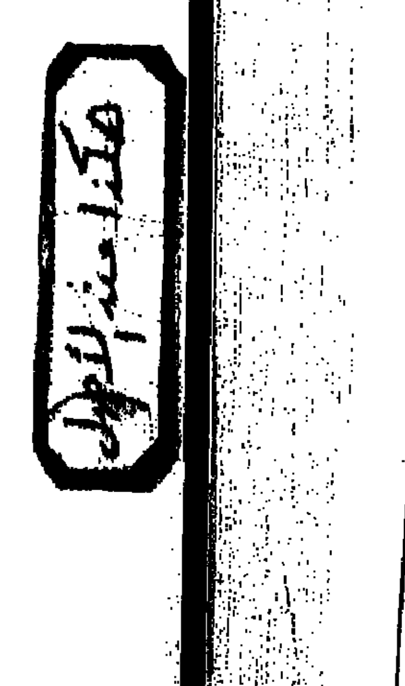
The Bonn government pl take action on migrant worke has been done, and that goes overriding objective, integration.

Walter

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ 7 Oct

Foreigners in Germany
Percentages against total pop (1982)

7.6 % Prop of population
11.7 % Receive regular soc. sec. cash (1981)
13.4 % Unemployed
4847



ENERGY

No era of power cuts as supply outstrips demand

s Barthelt, board chairman of mens subsidiary Kraftwerk AG, once had visions of the oing out over Europe.

ctober 1969 he felt it would only atter of time before the demand ctric power outstripped supply. mpany, Kraftwerk Union, manu power station plant and equip

1981, he forecast, German utili ld lack an essential power re rom 1985 power supplies would er be fully available everywhere he time.

Knizia, board chairman of Ver Elektrizitätswerke Westfalen AG mund, took a similar view, call April 1980 for swift expansion of power capacity.

the turn of the century he felt would need to be about 70,000 atts of installed nuclear power capacity if the country was to be an energy future.

at would have meant building two ree new nuclear power stations a

is autumn a note of far greater mo tion has been sounded by the r industry. "Power consumption is ally growing so slowly," Herr Kni as noted in a newspaper interview, t the light-water reactor in Hamm ot be needed until much later than ected."

the past he has seldom tired of be the North Rhine-Westphalian government for dragging its feet anning permission for the Hamm

now takes an altogether different The capacity will probably not be ed until the mid-1990s and not by eginning of the decade, as so far ed.

the country's largest power uti Rheinisch-Westfälische Elektrizi werke AG of Essen, seems to be re g its estimated future demand, re ng estimates substantially.

servers have claimed that RWE is om unhappy with the new environ l regulations governing power sta atmospheric pollution.

e new regulations provide a conve t excuse for indefinitely postponing construction of two new brown fired power stations it has been ning.

ans Filbinger, in his days as Prime ister of Baden-Württemberg, had y visions of the lights going out at because of power cuts.

thar Späth, his successor, sees, no n to feel under pressure to reach ions on the nuclear power station construction at Wyhl. There is surplus nuclear power available neighbouring France.

ce the beginning of the 1980s the r industry has been obliged to rea that its in some instances militant ands for the construction of new er power stations can no longer be such dramatic emphasis.

is day it was indirectly encourag y the Bonn government, which in felt that by 1980 at least 40,000 awatts of installed nuclear power city would be useful, and prefera 50,000.

o far a mere 10,400 megawatts have one on-line, and power consumption has grown much more slowly of late than, for instance, was anticipated in the second half of the 1970s (despite the oil crisis).

In 1979 a Berlin economic research institute was still confident enough to forecast annual power consumption growth rates of between 3.6 and 4.2 per cent between 1977 and 1985.

So far the pundits have been well wide of the mark. By 1982 the growth rate was a modest 1.7 per cent, and the power supply will not be in jeopardy in 1985 even though the installed capacity of German nuclear power stations will amount to no more than about 17,000 megawatts.

Even the current power reserve is a reassuring 7,000 megawatts, and some claim it is more than 10,000 megawatts.

Nominally the backlog could be even greater. Last year's peak power requirement was 51,000 megawatts on 15 December. Installed bottleneck capacity is a statistical 80,000 megawatts or so.

Deutsche Shell in 1979 was arguably the first major fuel and power firm to proclaim that the turnround had occurred. It forecast that energy consumption in the Federal Republic of Germany would be increasing much more slowly than in the past.

One can but hope Shell got it right. All previous forecasts have pretty well failed to do so. Comparison of over 130 estimates made between 1955 and 1981 shows the pundits to have had a poor track record.

They have even performed poorly in short-term forecasts over periods of, say, five or 10 years.

Comparison of figures also shows, however, that the experts seem to have been expecting constant growth, only taking a more level-headed view from about 1981.

Until about 1970 the estimates were reasonably sober and realistic. At times growth actually exceeded expectations. But this judgement only applies to overall energy consumption forecasts.

Forecasts of the extent to which individual categories of energy will be used tend to fall well wide of the mark. A trio of nuclear experts, Armand, Etzel and Giordani, made a classic miscalculation in 1957.

In a Euratom report they said the German coal industry could look forward to a glowing future. By 1975 the demand for coal would amount to 184 million tons per annum. Ten years later the mining industry went to the wall and in 1975 German coal output was down to 77 million tons. The great days of energy expectations were in the first half of the 1970s when computers uncritically set about projecting *Wirtschaftswunder* statistics way into the future. These figures and this outlook gradually assumed the proportions of a dogma. Now, in 1983, we know that forecasts in those days were in reality built on sand. In 1971 primary energy consumption totalling 500 million tons was anticipated by 1980. The actual total was 390 million tons, and it declined to 361 million tons last year.

Throughout the 1970s next to no-one expected that energy consumption might possibly decline, but that was what happened.

According to current estimates the 500 million tons target will not be reached until the turn of the century.

Comparable errors were made in respect of nuclear power, the proportion of which was in 1975 expected to amount to between 90 million and 100 million tons of coal equivalent by 1985.

In 1980 the pundits decided this total was not likely to be reached until the year 2000.

Views doffer as to why the forecasts have been so wrong and what economic trends and trends in consumer behaviour could have been foreseen.

Are the forecasts just rough guesses or are they serious estimates? "Economic forecasting says Essen economists," Hans-Joachim Rummert, "is not an exact science."

"It is an art of limiting the probable, always assuming that the premises on which the estimate is based continue to prove accurate." *Leonhard Spielhofer*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 1 October 1983)

Who generates electricity in Germany

About 357 others
123 private producers
437 public authorities
Number of suppliers
Total: about 1,000
83 public organisations with private capital
4
11
98
300
187
Production in billion kilowatts
Source: "strom"
imu 830901

Hurry while stocks last ... the Linach hydro-electric dam is for sale. (Photo: Rita Weber)

Town puts its hydro dam on the market

Vöhrenbach, population 4,500, is a small town in the Black Forest. It has put up a complete reservoir dam or barrage for sale.

There are times, says a town hall official, when the phone never stops ringing. It is usually people ringing up to ask whether the Linach dam is still for sale.

Not all enquiries have been from seriously interested parties, but there are currently felt to be about 20 genuine prospective customers.

The local authority has decided to sell the dam because funds are so low that Vöhrenbach can no longer afford to maintain and run it.

Any prospective buyer is likely to have to invest well over DM1m in his purchase, but the dam is a listed monument and the only one of its kind in Europe.

Its architectural merit is not what interests potential purchasers, however. It is not merely a plaything of the rich.

Investors are hoping the dam will earn good money as the cost of fuel and power spirals. The dam includes a power station that was run by the town until 1973.

The sale of the Linach dam, which is a popular destination among hikers in the Black Forest, is not just an unorthodox business proposition.

It also reflects striking changes in the energy trade, with small-scale power generation gradually reverting to profitability.

The dam is 143 metres (469ft) wide and 30 metres (98ft) tall. It was built in the early 1920s by Vöhrenbach to enable the town to generate its own electric power.

It held 11.3 million cubic metres of water and the hydroelectric power output was enough to generate over one million kilowatt hours per year, or

Continued on page 10

New short-haul Airbus in service by 1988, says minister

France, Britain and the Federal Republic have agreed on going ahead with the third Airbus, the A320, according to the French Transport Minister, Charles Fiterman. No formal agreement has been made about the proposed 150-seater, but it was intended to be in service by 1988.

Little over a year ago European aviation industry executives were confident the Airbus would give Boeing and McDonnell-Douglas a good run for their money — at least in non-American markets.

But they were beset by a trough of low pressure faster than expected and now have good reason to view the prospects with misgivings.

Sales of the wide-bodied A 300 and A 310 models have dropped and the Airbus consortium lacks the cash to research and develop a new model it hopes will bring in business.

Airbus Industrie is a government consortium in which France and Germany each hold a 37.9-per-cent stake, Britain 20 per cent and Spain 4.2 per cent.

So there is an obvious temptation to offset the shortage of cash by resorting to the taxpayer. Indeed, governments have no choice in the matter.

If the four countries want to stay in business in high tech and provide highly qualified jobs they have no option but to put on a brave face and pay for the privilege.

So there are no doubts in Bonn that the Federal government will soon be increasing the Airbus's credit backing from DM4.1bn to DM4.5bn. The limit was increased from DM2.85bn as recently as in March last year.

In all, Bonn has ploughed roughly DM7.8bn into European aviation projects in the form of R & D subsidies, manufacturing grants and sales credit facilities.

It is more than doubtful whether the German taxpayer will ever be able to recoup a single deutschemark.

Yet the market conditions for aircraft manufacturers are fairly favourable in the long term, at least if market research findings are any guide.

Between now and the turn of the century, the pundits claim, airlines will need to invest roughly DM700bn in new aircraft merely to replace and maintain fleet strength.

But these prospects for the future are scant consolation in a bleak present. In the wake of the worldwide recession IATA airlines have no cash to even consider buying new aircraft.

Last year they were collectively DM5bn in the red. Besides, as a result of mistaken expectations in the 1970s they all have massive surplus capacity.

About 150 up-to-the-minute wide-bodied jet airliners are currently up for sale on the used aircraft market.

This is naturally reflected in manufacturers' order books. In the late 1970s nearly 700 new aircraft a year were ordered. Those were the days!

In 1981 sales were down to 330. Last year only 220 airliners were sold. And the Airbus has been particularly hard-hit by the trend.

There were 46 orders in 1981, 17 in 1982; but so far this year there have been only four. What is more, 12 of the Airbuses ordered in 1982 are doubtful.

Fifty-one options taken out in earlier years have not been clinched as firm orders, as had been expected.

It has come as a serious blow to European aero manufacturers. A few years ago, with orders pouring in, they planned to step up production to 88 Airbuses a year.

They must now request the supervisory board to cut capacity back to 45 planes a year by 1985. Then, or so market researchers say, airlines will be back in the market for orders.

There are similar trends in other markets, but the European manufacturers are not in a position to respond anywhere near as flexibly as their American competitors.

European welfare provisions rule out hire and fire terms of employment common in the United States. So staff cannot simply be laid off when times are hard.

Yet once, in the 1970s, when Boeing gravely misjudged Jumbo orders, the US company was able to pare down its work force from 120,000 to less than 70,000 in next to no time.

As if such problems were not enough, the Airbus people also face the problem of deciding what management policy to adopt for the 1990s.

That may seem a long way ahead, but decisions must soon be taken because it is years before an aircraft makes its way from the drawing board to the runway.

If it were up to the manufacturers, Airbus engineers and technicians would start work today rather than tomorrow on a new aircraft envisaged as the A 320.

Unlike the models built so far, it would not be a wide-bodied airliner. It is envisaged as a short- and medium-haul plane seating 150 passengers.

Market research people say that from 1988 until well into the 1990s world demand for an aircraft in this category will amount to between 2,500 and 3,500 units.

If Europe were to succeed in cornering, say, 800 of these orders it would fare well. The break-even [...] be reached once sales pass[...]

Yet despite such glowing [...] the Airbus excutives ha[...] given the go-ahead. Of the [...] involved, clearly only the [...] prepared at this stage to p[...] lief in the forecasts.

The others are not only [...] the development costs, which [...] to total DM5bn, given tha[...] cannot be developed from [...] models.

Airlines are also chary [...] ting themselves. Only Air F[...] Air Inter, both under pressure [...] French government, have be[...] ed to order 75 planes in all.

But that is not enough orders [...] rant going ahead with develop[...] the Airbus management. "W[...] more launching customer," [...] ve recently noted.

"Once we have 100 orders [...] book we can get on with it."

Lufthansa is not interested [...] launching customer for the [...] and the two Airbus models [...] always found the experience [...] entirely satisfactory one.

So Airbus had great hopes [...] Airways. Britain, after all, ha[...] cent stake in the Airbus pro[...] British Airways have yet to [...] Airbus.

But to the bitter disappoint[...] the Airbus manufacturers [...] ways decided a few weeks ago [...] of Boeings.

The airline is so short of m[...] that it was certain to show [...] in the option of leasing the [...] ther than buying them outright.

Lufthansa would much prefer [...] the Airbus people having dev[...] long-range airliner rather than [...] and medium-haul model fac[...] competition from North America.

This long-range model could [...] deployed on routes currently [...] Boeing 707s but with not enough [...] to warrant running 747s or DC[...]

An aircraft of this kind, which [...] be based on the existing Airbus [...] would cost much less than the [...] research and develop.

But sales could only amount [...] timated 400 to 500 units, which [...] sidered not to be enough.

So there can be no overlooking [...] dilemma Airbus Industrie faces [...] executive Bernard Lathière sa[...] the future can only hold a de[...] favour of the smaller A 320 in [...]

Joachim [...]

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ[...] 30 Sept[...])

Airbuses waiting on the production line ... for how long?

Dam for sale

Continued from page 9

enough for a small town with a population, in those days, of about 3,000.

Industrial development in the post-war years increased the demand for power and the town bought extra electricity from the grid.

Doubts whether the dam wall was safe arose in the early 1960s. After various surveys the water level was halved to 15 metres.

As a result, power output declined to roughly 400,000 kilowatt hours per year. The power station ran at a loss.

After a controversial council debate in 1973 it was decided by a one-vote majority to shut the power station down.

Repairs were expected to run top several hundred thousand marks. Vöhrenbach didn't have the cash. Besides, a majority on the council felt generating power was no longer economic.

But the dam was not demolished either. It is the only one of its kind in Europe and is a listed historical monument.

With fuel and power prices now higher, potential buyers who evidently have more cash available than Vöhrenbach are hoping to run the power station at a profit again.

Whether a future owner will be happy with his purchase is another matter. No-one knows whether repairs will cost more than the estimated DM1m. The machinery needs replacing lock, stock and barrel.

The crucial feature is the state of the cast concrete used in the 1920s when it was a new technique about which little was known.

The acid water of the Linach reservoir may well have damaged the concrete. A comparable dam wall burst in Italy in the 1920s.

Even after repairs no-one can be sure whether the wall will still be capable of holding back the full level of water.

These technical problems are not the only handicaps preventing a quick sale. Vöhrenbach is not sure how much it can ask.

The authorities are unsure what yardstick to go by. They could take any but the original cost. The dam was built during the post-World War I hyper-inflation and construction costs totalled over 300,000 billion reichmarks.

Karl-Otto Sattler

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 5 October 1983)

[F]rance, Germany, Luxembourg share their Roman past

DIE WELT

[Th]e Romans on the Moselle and the [S]aar is an exhibition jointly orga[nised] by museums in Metz, Luxem[bour]g, Saarbrücken and Trier.

[Init]ial reports of this cooperative en[deav]our by museums in three countries [were] received with keen interest, [pro]mpting great and justified expecta[tions].

[It] was the first venture in internatio[nal] collaboration of this kind. The exhi[bitio]n was the result of a cultural agree[men]t between the countries concerned.

[F]rance, Germany and Luxembourg [hav]e long been separate political enti[ties] but they share a common Gallo-[Ro]man past.

[L]orraine, Luxembourg and the Saar, [the] neighbouring parts of the Federal [Re]public of Germany, were the historic [hom]eland of the Mediomatrics and the [Tre]verans.

[T]he Mediomatrics were Celts, scho[lars] agree. The Treverans may well not [hav]e been. Caesar called them Celts, al[thou]gh he must have been aware of [thei]r Germanic origins.

[It] was a long while before scholars [cros]sed swords with Caesar on this [poin]t. But the Treverans are nowadays [said] to have been Germanic tribesmen [o]n the left bank of the Rhine.

[T]hey are said to have differed from [Ger]manic tribes on the right bank of [the] river in having reached a higher [leve]l of development and lived closely [al]ongside the Romans.

[A]fter several unsuccessful attempts at [reb]ellion they vanished almost without [trac]e from history, leaving behind little [but] their name, which lives on as that of [Tri]er, or Augusta Treverorum, as the [Ro]mans called the city.

[Tri]er was initially a mere staging post [for] the Roman legions, later an Impe[rial] residence with a population of [rou]ghly 80,000.

[It] was not just the administrative, [tran]sport and trading centre of the pro[vin]ce of Gaul but also the hub of Gallo-[Ro]man culture for five centuries from [the] age of Augustus to the end of the [Ro]man empire.

[T]he Moselle region has been describ[ed b]y one historian as the showpiece of [Ro]man colonisation, so the exhibition [was] expected to be of interest.

[Bu]t the former railway station in Ro[land]seck, near Bonn, can hardly be said [to b]e the ideal venue for an exhibition [of t]he Romans on the Moselle and the [Saar].

[It] was clearly chosen for reasons of [pol]itical prestige and representation. It [is j]ust outside Bonn but in the [Rhin]eland-Palatinate.

[Th]at is about all that can be said in [the] location's favour. Rolandseck lacks [the f]acilities needed to house an exhibi[tion] of this kind. It has few attributes [to] befit a museum.

[As] a result, museums were reluctant [to le]nd valuable stock for exhibition at [Rol]andseck. Yet the rooms and show[case]s are packed with nearly 1,000 [item]s.

[M]any are said never before to have [be]en accessible to a wider public, which may arguably mean that museums have held on to their prize exhibits and mainly lent stock normally kept out of sight.

Only copies and reproductions of mosaics, frescoes and friezes are available. The same is true of sensitive and irreplaceable statues and glassware.

Yet the objects on show are invariably important and worth seeing. They would be capable of fulfilling their representative and didactic purpose if only they were suitably presented.

Heinz Cüppers, curator of the Trier museum and the man in charge of the exhibition, is well aware of the problem but feels the solution he has arrived at is a tolerable one.

It is an argument that could well be put forward. Besides, the exhibition is due to be held next in Paris, in the Musée du Luxembourg.

There it will have enough room and can be enjoyed in its full splendour, just as its intentions will be more clearly apparent.

In Paris the original bronzes from Dalheim, Luxembourg, will be on show, lent by the Louvre. In Rolandseck only replicas are on show.

Disregarding the tolerable dilemma of presentation, the exhibition naturally fulfils its purposes in Rolandseck too, especially by means of the comprehensive catalogue.

Visitors soon learn to differentiate between the highly developed Hellenistically-tinged court art, primitive popular art and more ambitious provincial art.

All can be seen in a wide range of sculpture, tombstones and statuettes, arts and crafts, mosaics and frescoes. But art is not the foremost consideration.

Culture must be viewed in the literal Latin sense as cultivation of the soil and of living conditions, and of this the exhibition provides telling examples.

Agriculture and wine-growing are shown, as is the Celts' continued predilection for beer. Trade and transport, shipping and artisan craftsmanship are illustrated.

Evolution

So is the evolution from artisan craftsmanship to factory manufacture and the transition from primitive settlements to villages and towns with considerable luxury.

The towns had amenities such as baths, schools, libraries, amphitheatres and sports facilities.

In Trier, a capital city, the transition naturally took a course different from developments in the countryside or in provincial towns.

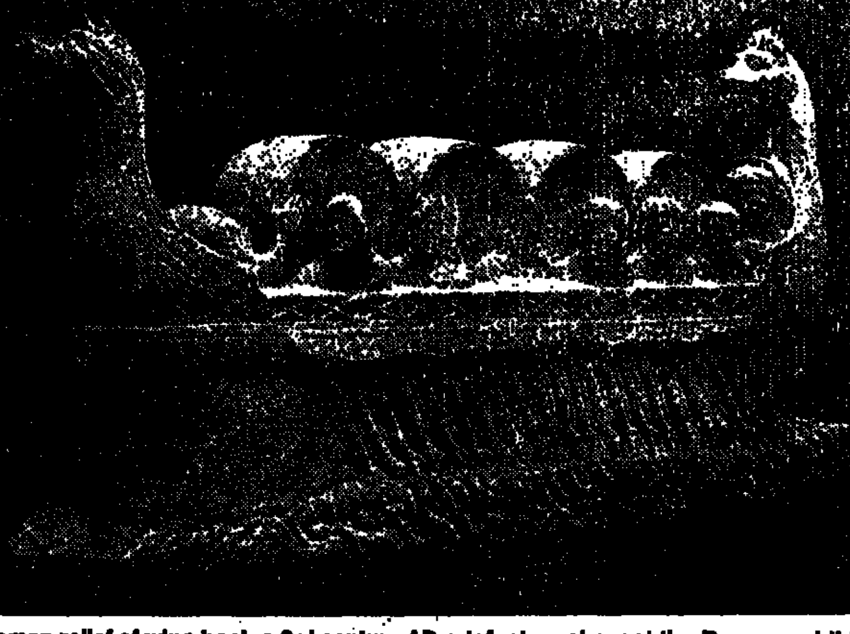
Individual museums have contributed specific exhibits to make these points. But a feature they all illustrate is the religious tolerance of the era.

Local, Roman and imported cults and gods existed side by side, developed similarities or were mixed, until Christianity finally gained pre-eminence.

But even then, traces of heathen religions long survived.

Eo Plunien

(Die Welt, 20 September 1983)



Roman relief of wine boat, a 3rd century AD artefact on show at the Roman exhibition. (Photo: Catalogue)

Magic meeting to reveal link between myth and reality

The magician has always been a classical fairy tale figure, so Fairy Tales and Shamanism was a fitting topic for this year's gathering of the European Fairy Tale Association in Bad Karlshafen.

The sorcerer or shaman is often in league with the powers of darkness. Love alone enables fairy tale heroes and heroines to surpass his powers.

Frogs becomes princes again and trees princesses. But popular myths and fairy tales are not only peopled by evil magicians.

The staunchest opponents of sorcerers in league with the forces of the underworld are good magicians such as Merlin in the Arthurian legends and Gandalf in Tolkien's Lord of the Rings.

In the tales handed down by Asian and Indian tribes the shamans fight for good causes and avail themselves of the services of supernatural forces.

Shamans are usually mortals but initiated into extraordinary powers. They can speak with the dead, travel to astral worlds, visit or be visited by spirits and converse with animals and plants.

They have a staff similar to the magician's wand and a drum they use to put themselves in an ecstatic trance. In this state they can establish contact with the spirits.

Belief in the supernatural powers of shamans and magicians has never entirely died in civilisations beyond Europe, and now doubts have been cast on reason and common sense, belief in shamans has undergone a revival in the West.

There has been at least a partial renaissance, and a powerful one, of what last century, in an age of science and technology, was banished to the realm of fairy tales.

The revival of interest in astrology, spiritualism and clairvoyance testifies to the trend. So does work at many a serious university department.

So the topic at the Karlshafen conference, the 29th congress of the European Fairy Tale Association, was a timely one.

In his opening address Heino Gehrts, the Altmölln fairy tale research scholar who organised the gathering, sounded a warning note against false hopes.

The conference, he said, was not intended to encourage the emergence of hobby shamanists in previously unprobed areas of the occult.

The aim was to sound out the roots of sorcery in popular fairy tales and to illustrate the close links between myth and reality.

The fairy tale might be unreal but it reflected historical and cultural trends and the quintessence of popular belief.

Issues covered ranged from the first testimony to shamanism in the cave paintings at Lascaux via shamans and sorcerers in sagas and fairy tales in East and West to the activities of present-day miracle healers in the Philippines.

Professor Sigried Lichtenberger, of Saarbrücken, dealt in an outstanding lecture with shamans in Germanic mythology. Shamanism, she said, was by no means limited to the Asiatic peoples.

In Germanic mythology Odin, the lord of the worlds, has all the attributes of a shaman. He makes use of animal spirits such as ravens, wolves and so on. He travels to the underworld to free Baldur. His eight-legged horse Sleipnir is a cosmic symbol.

Sleipnir's counterpart occurs in the shamanistic beliefs of Siberian tribes for whom the shaman rides to the realm of the dead on an eight-legged horse.

Professor Horst Kirchner, of Berlin, added to Frau Lichtenberger's findings in his paper on Archaeological Testimony to Shamanism in the Germanic World.

On seventh-century gold coins found in Lower Saxony and Scandinavia Odin, he said, was shown wearing bird-mask headgear reminiscent of the masks worn by Siberian and Indian shamans.

Odin himself does not just survive in sagas and fairy tales. He also persists in popular belief as the Wild Horseman who drives his team of wolves through the night sky between Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Agnes Kovacs, of Hungary, dealing with peasant fairy tales in her own country, showed how vividly the belief in sorcerers and shamans has survived to the present.

Children born with a tooth to this day are felt to have supernatural powers and be predestined to become shamans.

In Hungarian peasant fairy tales the taltos, or witch doctor, usually appears

Continued on page 14

■ RESEARCH

Controls tightened on leather sprays as tests for poisonous ingredients go on

The Bonn Health Ministry has ordered manufacturers to put a warning on the labels of certain sprays used to impregnate leather and textiles.

The red-framed warning must say that inhalation could be hazardous to health, that the spray must be used only outdoors or in well-ventilated places and only for a few seconds at a time; and not near children and pets.

Some sprays have now had to be withdrawn from the market.

Medical literature has for some time dealt with individual cases of health damage caused by leather sprays. State anti-poison centres have registered about 250 cases.

Inhalation can cause headaches, aching joints, dizziness, coughing, fever, shivering, shortness of breath and lung damage.

Symptoms are usually not noticed until an hour or two after use. So there is nothing that would alert the user and make him stop spraying.

Sixty per cent of the affected people had to be hospitalised. Doctors say that in some cases death was averted only by immediate intensive care. Several pets have died. The actual toxin is still unknown.

The Berlin-based Federal health authority originally thought that the spray clogs the lungs. But this has not been substantiated by tests. The health au-



thority has also disproved that the emulsifiers in the spray are the culprit.

It stands to reason therefore that one or several of the chemicals (7 to 11, depending on the brand) cause the poisoning.

This is further supported by an observation made by Professor Stefan Okonek who heads the Mainz anti-poison centre: the danger grows with the quantity.

He says that this would not be the case if the trouble were due to a simple allergic reaction.

Professor Okonek has analysed all reported cases and come to this conclusion: there was a steep rise in 1980 and 1981 in poisoning due to the use of products made by Werner & Mertz, Mainz. After that period there was an equally rapid drop to below average levels.

The head of the company's chemical department, Dr Edelbert Bischoff, said: "At exactly that time we changed our supplier of basic chemicals."

Professor Okonek also says that Werner & Mertz products contained silicone between August and December 1980. After that the use of silicone was discontinued.

Two sprays made by other manufacturers that have been classified as relatively harmless are also silicone-free.

But this is not the end of the "scientific mystery story" as the researchers call it. The silicone theory could easily be proved wrong.

Since none of the substances used in leather sprays are entirely harmless, it is possible that it is a combination that causes the problems.

As experts see it, one of the major bugbears is that the brands that have been banned could be replaced by others with different substances that would still not guarantee their harmlessness.

A spokesman for one of the companies affected by the ban, Dr Lange of the Berlin-based Collonil, says that the mixtures used in the substitute products have not been known to have negative effects.

Professor Okonek says that if sales of the substitute products are stepped up this could shift the risk to substances that are not yet shown by statistics to be hazardous.

Quite apart from the loss of sales due to the ban, the industry now also has to face the problem of getting rid of the withdrawn chemicals.

Neither the uncertainties about the actual substance that causes the leather spray illness nor economic considerations have stopped the health authority from taking precautions.

In May, it banned *Imprägnol* made by Brauns-Heitmann.

On 9 September, after extensive negotiations, it held a scientific hearning behind closed doors. Five days later, representatives of the states and industry and Bonn officials met at the health ministry. The manufacturers yielded to pressure and withdrew seven brands. The remaining brands now carry the warning label.

Reading poser

Views on the effectiveness of this consumer protection differ.

The head of the Baden-Württemberg health authority, Dr Jägerhuber, has sent this memo to various government authorities: "Experience shows that the public pays no attention to the labels on everyday consumer goods. What's more, some people are unable to read the labels."

Some experts fear that legal responsibility will now rest entirely with the consumer. If he heeded the warnings he would be unable to make sensible use of the sprays: he would have to take his leather couch and easy chairs on to the balcony and then spray them only for a few seconds, which would achieve nothing.

Critics say that it is usually unnecessary to impregnate leather and that this can in any event be done with creams. But the industry says that impregnating sprays for textiles, shoes and other leather goods are essential.

Justin Westhoff

(Der Tagesspiegel, 27 September 1983)

Count down ... combined ... space missi...

The 9th Space Shuttle ... month will be a join... American project.

During the nine-day orbi... tude of about 250 kilome... man team working in two ... check out the Spacelab syste...

A German scientist, Dr U... will carry out scientific expe... gether with an American bio... bold was chosen by the ... Space Agency (ESA)

Dr Heinz Oser, who is ... life sciences at ESA, said ... terview that medical research ... life sciences was only one ... items in the ESA research bu...

The mission would mak... first contribution to basic spa... research in the fields of med... biology.

The life sciences in spa... such fields as human physio... and molecular biology and ph... siology.

These costly experiments ... out in space because there ... areas of biological and me... search that cannot be carrie... earth. They need zero gravity.

Cosmic rays, the vacuum a... ratures that can rapidly be ma... from +100 deg. C. to -100 deg... scientists to simulate envir... conditions that do not exist on...

Research into human physio... centre on two areas. One: the ... system of the inner ear whose ... react directly to changes in gr... acceleration. Two: the central ... sure relating to the cardiovasc... tem.

An area of lesser importance ... neuro-physiology where psych... ric phenomena and sensation... in specific situations.

Anthony Wright of the ... University Ear, Nose and Throat ... one of the collaborators in the ... me, explained the vestibular sy... the press conference. He said ... that the Spacelab experimen... provide new insights into the ph... gy of balance and the part pl... eyes, somato-sensors and the ... of the ear.

This will also include change... calcium metabolism of the ... system during space travel.

Professor Rudolf J. von Baum... diretor of the mainz University ... logical Institute and "Principal I... gator SL I", explained the disor... the vestibular system that can ... unsteadiness, blackouts and dizz...

Experience with space travel ... shows that these disorders occ... only as a result of pathological ... but also in the form of space sick...

He said that the peripheral and ... tral vestibular systems had in the ... of evolution adjusted to gravity ... tions on earth. They had, howev... time to adjust to ships, autom... aircraft and space capsules whic... not exist when the systems evolve... dern man is therefore prone to ... ness, car sickness and space sickn...

More than half the crews of ... craft suffer from space sickness ... the first days of a mission. About ... four astronauts vomit badly ... be unable to work.

These symptoms cannot be ... earth because the otolith in the ...

Continued on page 15

YOUTH

Firms hit out at low level of education

...stry's complaints about the poor ...cational standards of apprentices ...pecially in German and mathemat... are becoming louder.

...inessmen have long been com...ing. The Koblenz Chamber of ...merce and Industry has come to ...rious conclusion that future sales ...nnel are worst in mathematics ...would-be typists and other office ...rs are worst in German.

...ployers associations and the ...bers of commerce say the school ... has failed.

... Schleswig-Holstein Chambers of ...merce and Industry publicly ac... the schools of inefficiency and ...education ministers to do someth...bout it.

...ey said that the low education ...dards made it difficult to find ap...iceships for them.

...e Koblenz Chamber reports that ...t 17.5 per cent of women who want ...e office workers and 12 per cent of ...strial sales personnel failed their ...r 1982/83 exams, (No figures are available for the latest series of ...s.)

...e failure for would-be typesetters, ...o should actually have a natural af...y to the German language," was as ...as 27.3 per cent. To make matters ..., most of those who passed only ...scraped through, which hardly ... rise to much optimism, as a ...esman for the Koblenz Chamber ...t.

...t some never even get as far as a ... exam because their employers ...w in the towel in despair before the ...n.

...e chambers of commerce and in...y constantly receive letters like this ... "Enclosed, I return to you the ...e mentioned contract. Please can...he contract because the apprentice ...o way meets our standards. The ... standards of today's apprentices is ...ecedented."

...is particular apprentice had grad...d from junior high school but this ...done little to improve his knowled...ven high school graduation cannot ...re the necessary standards.

...t is shocking that one-quarter of ... school graduates are unable to ... with basic mathematics," says a Kassel Chamber of Commerce report on a maths and spelling test all apprentices and trainees had to take at the Hesse Chambers last winter.

The Kassel vocational training experts compared the results of these tests with those of similar tests in 1978.

The proportion of students who had completed junior and senior high school was higher in the latest tests than in 1978. The test results should therefore have been better. But they weren't. The average number of mistakes was exactly the same as in 1978, "showing that the higher ratio of high school graduates did not make for better performance."

The situation elsewhere is exactly the same. In a survey made to find additional training places, the Lübeck Chamber of Commerce and Industry questioned the business community on the results of aptitude tests. The average failure rate was 59 per cent.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, close to 5,000 apprentices volunteered to take a spelling test in January this year. The results were much worse than in the first of these tests two years ago," writes the Association of North Rhine-Westphalian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Nor were there any improvements in the maths tests at the same time. "The main bugbear was fractions, percentages and the figuring out of interest."

Here, too, the chambers urged teachers and educational authorities to "put more emphasis on spelling and maths".

"We have for some time been involved in an intensive discussion about this problem with the chambers of commerce and industry," says a North Rhine-Westphalian Education Ministry spokesman.

Criticism was particularly strong when industry has problems making full use of its production capacities.

A Ministry spokesman: "We don't deny the educational gaps of our students." But this was because conditions for such major subjects as German and maths were worse today than they used to be.

"What child still writes a letter to thank his aunt for a Christmas present? It's quicker and easier to reach for the phone."

Television takes the place of reading these days, and arithmetic is done with a pocket calculator.

The Ministry official: "Naturally, the school system must not capitulate in the face of these difficulties." The Ministry had instructed teachers to put more emphasis on spelling and maths.

Hanna Gieskes

(Die Welt, 14 September 1983)

Chancellor's Office flooded with pleas for jobs

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's election promise of apprenticeships for all has led to a flood of mail at the Chancellor's Office.

Close to 17,000 letters have been received since March and Chancellery staff are groaning under the load.

The letters have to be answered and forwarded to the various labour offices and chambers of commerce.

Now official Bonn parlance refers no longer to "apprenticeship guarantee" but "apprenticeship drive."

So far 7,700 young people or their parents have written to "Dear Mr Chancellor" telling him of their wishes and worries and enclosing extensive apprenticeship application material.

Another 8,800 letters were prompted by various drives such as the SPD coupon drive before the elections.

Among these letters were many that were signed by entire school classes,



youth groups, school faculties and works councils.

Many of the letter writers have written again either to thank the chancellor for an apprenticeship or to tell him that they had failed.

In the latter case, the Chancellery staff contacts the local labour offices and chambers by telephone.

One of the staff: "That sort of thing takes a lot of time, but it's very effective."

The labour offices and chambers of commerce mobilised by the Chancellor now inform the Chancellery about the success or failure of their efforts.

A Rhineland chamber of commerce and industry that received 99 letters from the Chancellery said it had been able to place 49 of the applicants; 11 wanted to continue with their schooling; the rest did not bother to answer the chamber's letter.

A chamber spokesman: "We suspect that these youngsters are no longer interested in an apprenticeship." Twenty-one of those invited for an interview by a chamber in southern Germany did not turn up. Eight did not go to the interviews arranged with the potential training firm.

A Ruhr area chamber had 374 vacant apprenticeships to offer but 74 of the 105 applicants did not show up for an interview.

This chamber of commerce wrote to the Chancellery: "The youngsters were expressly told that they could come back to the chamber and try again should they fail in their first attempt. Very few made use of this offer."

A trade guild in the Rhine-Main area maintains that not all letters sent to the Chancellery are meant seriously. Writes the guild: "Only about two-thirds of the young people we wrote to responded to our offer. In many cases they told us that the letters they wrote to the Chancellery were politically motivated or that wrote simply because the necessary forms were passed around at school."

The Chancellery describes the activities that were triggered by Helmut Kohl's apprenticeship drive as encouraging.

It says it has received 400 letters with suggestions and concrete apprenticeship offers that have been forwarded to labour offices and chambers of commerce.

The letter writing drive of a Rhineland mayor resulted in an additional 300 apprenticeships against the previous year.

A savings bank decided to waive dividends for three years in favour of ten additional training places.

A youngster who had next to no schooling and was therefore considered a hopeless case managed to get a locksmith apprenticeship through the Chancellery and the local chamber.

The Chancellery warns against striking a final balance sheet of the apprenticeship drive now, stressing that this cannot be done until October or November at the earliest.

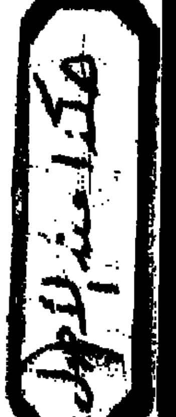
Officials say that the 35,000 apprenticeships promised by the Chancellor will probably be exceeded. The trades alone reported 25,000 additional openings at the end of August.

The number of those who have apprenticeship contracts in their pockets but are still listed with the labour office as applicants is unknown. So is the number of those who have hoarded several contracts.

Even officials are now sceptical as to how many young people will eventually wind up with apprenticeships. The number of applicants has risen more than anticipated.

Rudi Kilgus

(Mannheimer Morgen, 21 September 1983)



■ THE LAW

Doctor convicted in case of paroled sex offender who struck again

A dog owner who allows a vicious dog to run around free until somebody gets bitten could well be charged with causing bodily injury through negligence.

But what happens when a mental hospital psychiatrist allows a sex offender to leave hospital without supervision and the patient commits another sex crime?

A Göttingen court has now ruled that the psychiatrist is also guilty of bodily injury through negligence.

The doctor, at the time medical director of Göttingen state hospital, was fined DM20,400.

An appeal is to be lodged against the which is thought to be unique in this country and which is likely to have a far-reaching effect on the psychiatric care of criminals.

The case raises the question as to the extent to which judges and prosecutors, who have no psychiatric training, can evaluate therapeutic measures by applying criminal code criteria.

The case: at the age of 14 and 15, a boy from a broken working class family tried three times to rape women. He succeeded on two other occasions and on yet another occasion he was caught in an act of exhibitionism.

Since the court ruled that he was legally insane he was committed to Moringen state hospital near Göttingen in 1977.

In the summer of 1980, he was allowed to visit his parents twice. He then allegedly committed another sex offence.

His parents, who said that they did not keep him under constant supervision, were later fined on charges of "bodily injury through neglect and omission."

Shortly after this, the young man was

SONNTAGS BLATT

transferred to Göttingen state hospital. An experienced 61-year-old psychiatrist diagnosed his disorder as curable and assigned him to a group for analysis and therapy.

Since the idea was to gradually accustom the man to returning to a life in freedom, the doctor let him leave the hospital building and move about the extensive grounds without supervision.

But only one-third of hospital is fenced in. The offender was able to sneak into town when he wanted.

The psychiatrist was fully aware of this but he trusted the patient sufficiently to accept the risk.

He did not depart from this practice even after the court trying the relapse during the patient's visit to his parents ordered the continued stay of the offender — now 19 — in a mental hospital on the grounds that he was a danger to the public.

In the following weeks, the patient was seen drunk returning to the hospital late at night. Six to eight packs of cigarettes were found on him and he admitted to having left the hospital grounds to visit to visit a girl friend at a nearby home for young people.

Though the doctor did not just accept these violations of rules, he saw no reason to take any drastic action. For the psychiatrist, the visit to the girl was an indication that the patient was trying to establish non-violent relations with the opposite sex.

The event that possibly triggered the relapse occured two weeks later. The psychiatrist was taken ill with an eye illness and could not keep the patient on a "therapeutic leash" as he put it. The doctor himself had to be hospitalised. It was shortly before this doctor-patient separation that the offender committed yet another sex offence.

A few days later, he visited the psychiatrist at his sickbed (he had told the doctor that he had been allowed to go to town under supervision. He was believed).

A short while later, he again raped two women.

According to the prosecutor and the bench, the psychiatrist should have anticipated these events.

Due to the "generally dangerous nature of the patient," the judge said, the doctor should not have allowed him to leave the premises without supervision.

He said that any relaxation in the detention conditions in such cases would have to be preceded by many years of treatment.

At the first violations of rules and no later than when the patient visited the doctor at his sickbed, the therapist should have cancelled the privilege of leaving the hospital building, the judge said.

The counsel for the defence, Hans-Ludwig Schreiber, a ... sor of criminal law, ... in road traffic — there ... thing as a risk-free therapy.

The accused emphasised ... could not anticipate the ... ces by his patient and that ... very sorry.

In a personal statement ... that it went beyond the ... the judges to evaluate his ... methods in retrospect.

He thus not only raised ... mental problem of the ... lawyers in specialised fields ... directly criticised the judge ...

The fact is that the two ... the two lay assessors on the ... not exactly give the impression ... sensitivity.

One of the medical rep... patient stated that he had ... time openly talked about ... ship with women and admitted ... hol problems while off the pr...

To the bench this was ... tion of first therapy success ... could justify a relaxation of ... finement) but a confirmation ... that the psychiatrist should have ... gnised the abuse of the freedom ... to the patient (secret drinking ...

Anybody who has once ... sex crimes and now drinks ... will tomorrow rape again?

The sentenced doctor, ... meanwhile retired because of ... illness, pins his hopes on the ...

His former patient, on the ... hand, stands no chance whatsoever ...

Testifying in court, the pr... tor of the state hospital, Ulri... laff, said: "What doctor would ... risk allowing this man to go ... full public view?"

Eckhard S...

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 11 Sep...)

Magic meeting

Continued from page 11

as a wild horse, a figure reminiscent of Hungary's equestrian past.

In the peasant reality of popular belief, on the other hand, the sorcerer is usually limited to human shape.

In the Philippines Christianity (the Roman Catholic faith) is mixed with shamanistic traditions in much the same way as it is in Hungary.

Most miracle healers in the Philippines, Bavarian clergyman Ebermut Rudolph told the gathering, were good Catholics. But their Christian beliefs did not prevent them from holding conversations with spirits.

And just like shamans in fairy tales they send their souls in a state of trance or deep sleep on journeys to the end of all worlds.

In fairy tales, the Karlshafen conference concluded, the real world and the world beyond are but parts of a whole, linked by bridges and gateways.

They can be crossed not only by the dead but also by the shaman as an initiate and by a loving soul.

In tales of sorcery love wields the strongest magic power. It is a power against which even the spirits of the underworld are powerless.

Margarete von Schwarzkopf

(Die Welt, 27 September 1983)

A doctor has been acquitted by a Krefeld court on a charges involving the death of a 77-year-old woman who had requested to be allowed to die. The German society for a humane death says this is the first case of its kind in Germany.

Mercy death doctor is acquitted

There was general approval in the courtroom when the ruling was handed down.

But the acquitted doctor was well aware that this was only a provisional victory. The prosecutor, who had demanded a suspended fine of DM9,000, is to appeal.

The case involves a doctor who allowed to die in peace. He did nothing to help her when he found her lying in a coma. This was as she wanted.

According to the bench, Dr Herbert Wittig found the 77-year-old woman lying in bed after having broken down the door to her appartment with the help of one of the dead woman's neighbours. The neighbour was also charged and acquitted.

The woman was in a hopeless conditions after taking 44 sleeping pills and injecting herself with 12 morphine ampoules. Her breathing was down to six a minute and her pulse could no longer be felt.

On her desk, the doctor found a note saying: "I forbid any effort to extend my life at any cost. I want to die in dignity. In the full possession of my mental faculties, I request: no hospital, no nursing home, no intensive care unit and no life-prolonging medical measures." She had repeatedly asked this since 1980.

Her folded hands on top of the white sheet clutched a photograph of her husband, who had died several months earlier.

Next to the photograph was another note reading: "To my doctor: No hospital please. Deliverance. I want to join my Peter."

The doctor knew his patient wanted to commit suicide at some point. He knew that the couple had talked about this while the husband was alive. Both had regarded their lives as fulfilled. They had decades of harmonious marriage and had achieved everything they had wished for.

The doctor did not approve of the suicide plan and tried to talk her out of it in long discussions. And it was in another bid to dissuade her that he went to see her on the evening of 11 November.

It must therefore have come as a shock to him to find her dying. If her life could have been saved at all she would have been left with severe organic damage and reduced to a vegetable. And exactly this was what she had feared most.

The doctor found himself, in a terrible dilemma. On the one hand, his Hippocratic Oath committed him to saving life at any cost. On the other hand, he felt, that he had to honour the patient's last wish.

After much soul-searching, he decided to respect her wish. Together with the neighbour, he spent the night at her deathbed until the following ...

Presiding Judge Dieter Ho... with the case on the purely le... than the ethical plane. In any ... court found that no crime ... committed.

The charge of homicide ... due to withholding medical ... was untenable because there ... evidence that this assistance ... saved or prolonged the patient's ...

But since the doctor believed ... life could perhaps have been ... though at the cost of lifelong ... tion, the court also dealt with ... tion of attempt.

It found that the accused had ... abided by the earnest wish ... patient.

The court thus adopted the pr... view in legal literature although ... ry practice has so far held that ... tor's responsibility begins at the ... when the patient loses consc... and hence free will.

The bench also ruled that the ... was not guilty of denial of med... sistance. To be found guilty ... count, the case would have had ... volve an accident.

The judge said that while the F... Court had ruled in 1954 that s... had to be treated as an acciden... values were subject to constant ...

And the bench doubted wh... suicide that has not been co... a state of emotional stress and ... involve a child or a juvenile co... be seen in this light.

In the end, he emphasised that ... was unnecessary in this case be... would not have saved the patient.

Jürgen Wessel...

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 Septe...)

■ MODERN LIVING

Prisoners' newspapers in a bit of a jam

...aflet hand-printed by a group of ...isoners at Tegel jail, West Berlin, ... the publication of a 20-page cy...ed prison magazine, *Der Durchblick*.

...as the second magazine written ...printed by prisoners in Tegel, set ...n opposition to a semi-official ...cation entitled *Lichtblick*.

...as also one of 50 magazines of its ...regularly published in pupils all ...he Federal Republic of Germany.

...rite the truth about what you hear, ...d personally experience," the leaf...pealed. An editorial team was set ...d the first articles written for the ...magazine.

...y typed 20 A4 pages of copy, il...ted them and ran off 100 copies ...n old duplicator. It was, they wrote ...ir first editorial, hard work.

...el is the largest jail in Germany, ...over 1,400 inmates. The semi-offi...magazine, *Lichtblick*, is backed by ...prison governor, bankrolled by the ...cipal justice department and print...the prison printing shop.

...ot surprisingly, the tenor of the arti...t publishes reflects this support. It ...ses unsatisfactory aspects of pri...fe but is generally cooperative.

...ot so *Der Durchblick*. In a fighting ...issue it went for confrontation, ...ing that: "The word is our wea... We will use it unhesitatingly and ...very opportunity and not allow our...s to be gagged by blackmail, chi...y and repression. Say who is to ...e and name names. Make things ...le in prison."

...e issues dealt with in the first issue ...the lid off a variety of complaints: ...food, poor medical care, heavy-...ed action by members of prison ...and discrimination against foreign ...oners.

...bove all, prisoners were called on to ...k up, complain and take an active ...in doing something about their ...nces.

...dly had the first copies found ...way round the various blocks of ...ll but staff were ordered by the go... to confiscate them.

...e editorial board were accused of ...troublemakers and transferred to ...prisons in the city.

...ked why, the governor said: "The ...zine contains agitation, not infor...n. It is likely to foment unrest and ...der."

...need no longer worry. *Der Durchblick* has ceased publication — under .... Its staff have been punished and ...up.

...ce and order have been restored ...egel. The bid to lift the veil of censorship inside has been ended in the usual way.

Writers and others who helped with the magazine were transferred to other prisons and *Lichtblick* now has the field to itself again.

This clash in Berlin occurred a while ago, but it is a typical example of the difficulties prison magazines face. They are always strictly censored, often worst where there is claimed to be no censorship.

The red pencil is wielded by the prison governors, who are often chairmen of the editorial board. But self-censorship often makes the more direct approach superfluous.

With few exceptions the editors, who are often hand-picked by prison officers, are fulsome in their praise of the idea of togetherness between prisoners and staff.

Der Riegel, a prison magazine published in Nuremberg, asked its readers: "Who of us is keen on holding responsibility? ... In the final analysis we are all in the same boat."

Wir, published in Landsberg, also in Bavaria, admitted: "There are limits to our criticism from the outset. We bear the red pencil in mind so as not to have to do the work again."

Not all prison magazine writers are so honest about their work, but the fact is that but for a few exceptions they have long grown accustomed to the official gagging to which they are subjected.

The contents are not infrequently edited by social workers and prison officers. The magazines occasionally go in for a "crime and punishment" outlook and a "common sense" that amounts to accepting the status quo.

That, of course, is just what the prison officers want. Nothing makes life more difficult than prisoners with grievances.

So as a rule the contents are limited to less controversial issues such as shopping behind bars, visiting arrangements, leisure and sporting activities.

Magazines have even taking to publishing fiction and poems, and of course puzzles, with a pouch of tobacco or a packet of coffee for the first correct entry received.

They have names such as *Der Versuch, Der Kompromiss, Klette, Das Schliessfach* and *Santa Fu Magazin*. They walk a tightrope between censorship and compromise.

It is particularly difficult when they make use of infrequent opportunities to publish important information, to prompt discussions and stimulate criticism.

Pinpointing grievances and working alongside prisoners' representatives can prove equally difficult.

These are magazines with a high readership but a constant struggle in connection with censorship of one kind and another.

Like the sword of Damocles, there is a constant threat of the governor saying no and clamping down.

Several prison magazines try to gain outside support by selling subscriptions to outsiders. Unlike magazines that have a circulation restricted to one jail, they mail much of their circulation elsewhere.

But, as *Das Megaphon*, a magazine produced in Butzbach jail, Hesse, learnt to its cost, outside support can also have its drawbacks.

Outside subscribers began to cancel their subscriptions. Others stopped paying for them. There were fewer small ads from publishers and other advertisers. The magazine soon folded.

Did the prison officers and the justice department have anything to do with this? Maybe. No-one knows for sure.

Pressure certainly doesn't just come from outside. Nearly all people who write for prison magazines do so for only a short period.

Some are released, others transferred. Then there are endless debates on form and content and infighting over claims to leadership.

Many editorial staff grow sick and tired of this backbiting. They quit. A working relationship based on partnership seems hard to establish behind bars.

It may be a closed shop but the atmosphere is not conducive to cooperation as opposed to competition, although exceptions prove the rule.

Kukucksei, published in Schwerte, Westphalia, is now into its third year of publication. Despite countless attempts by the prison authorities to gag it, it has never steered clear of critical issues.

This is probably because it has an editorial team of "regulars" and appears regularly, once a quarter. It is fairly bulky and well put together and has a regular readership too.

Its readers are not just behind bars. They include writers such as Luise Rinser and Ingeborg Drewitz, who have occasionally written articles specially for the magazine.

That has meant kudos and brought the attention of a wider public to the magazine's existence. Prison issues that would not normally strike a wider public are given a public airing.

The *Kukucksei* editors have devised their own method of flouting censorship. There is a regular column entitled "What You Will Not Be Able To Read In This Issue."

It lists items that have been censored by the prison authorities. If we are going to be censored by the governor, the editorial board argue, then we aren't going to take it lying down; we're going to make it public.

Prison magazines need a wider public and a wider readership. They can be an invaluable intermediary between life behind bars and life outside.

Helmut Ortner

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 1 October 1983)

Space mission

Continued from page 12

...s the only human organ that de...s entirely on earth gravity.

...ofessor von Baumgarten said he ...glad that the German D1 mission ... carried out in 1985 with a rented ...e Shuttle will be fully automated ...leave enough time for experiments ...e sciences.

...earch will centre on the vestibular ...m. The test persons will be put ...gh their paces in line with prear...ed acceleration patterns.

...e ESA has urged doctors to sugg... experiments with systems that have ...vity relevance.

...e German clearing house for infor...ion, complete with a film jointly ...uced by NASA and the ESA, is ...phar Pharma in Hanover.

Ute B. Fröhlich

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 September 1983)

Adult illiteracy remains a big problem

A Bonn Education Ministry report says between 600,000 and three million people in the Federal Republic of Germany whose native language is German are illiterate or semi-literate.

In West Berlin the authorities estimate there to be between 10,000 and 30,000 people who either have the greatest difficulty in reading or writing or are incapable of either.

Unfavourable conditions at home or at schools are often to blame. So are impediments of speech, hearing and vision that go unnoticed for too long and are not given suitable treatment.

No-one has the slightest idea how many foreign nationals there may be in Germany who can speak either German or their native language or both but can read and write neither.

Many Turkish women are definitely felt to suffer from loneliness caused by the alien environment and illiteracy.

Literacy courses and aids are few and far between. At evening classes all over the country only 300 courses are said to have been held this year, catering for a mere 2,000 people.

As some of the questionnaires sent out by the Evening Classes Association in Frankfurt am Main have yet to be returned the figure is presumed to be 400 night school courses for about 3,000 people all over the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin.

The number of courses for non-Germans is extremely small.

Horst Müller, who now works for the Frankfurt association, spent years teaching adult illiterates to read and write in Berlin.

The number of courses offered is a bad joke, he says. It would be even less likely to cater for the level of demand if courses were publicised in the media (TV, for instance).

Germany, he feels, is a decade behind Britain in literacy courses and publicity for them. It may fairly be termed a developing country.

He and his associates feel it is extremely important to reach agreement on a standard telephone number the illiterate can dial to make enquiries.

In a debate with West Berlin education officials illiterates and literacy teachers in Tiergarten borough said everyone who wanted to learn to read and write ought to be given the opportunity.

The debate was held in connection with the International Literacy Day Unesco holds every September to draw attention to the problem.

Speakers were strongly critical of plans to cut spending on adult education. They demanded more cash for literacy campaign work, not less.

It was the only way to flesh out the constitutional rights to free personality development, to freedom of opinion and to freedom of employment.

In practice illiterates and semi-literates are often disheartened after summoning up the courage to come out and do something about learning to read and write.

Those who are unable to attend inexpensive evening classes because there are none in their area or they need special clases to begin with need cash and often have to apply to the welfare office for grants.

To qualify for welfare grants toward literacy courses they have to prove that their inability to read and write may trigger serious mental upsets.

They are questioned by local authority doctors whose enquiries are felt by many people to be humiliating. "How does it affect your marriage?" is one of the questions asked.

Birgit-Ingeborg Loff

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 September 1983)